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SOCCER

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★★★ NEWCASTLE SAVED BY SOCCER LOVING BUSINESSMAN Page 13 ★★★

AFRICAN DELIGHT

We've done it: Cameroon's Serge Mimpo celebrates his country's first Olympic Gold Medal.

Indomitable Lions clinch historic first gold medal

By Vince Battiato at Stadium Australia

Cameroon became the second successive African nation to win the Olympic championship following on from Nigeria in Atlanta, in the process winning their nation's only ever Olympic gold medal.

Before the weekend Cameroon had only ever won silver medals in Olympic competition, all of them coming in Boxing.

Even the most willing fan didn't really take too seriously coach Jean-Paul Akono's prediction after the group stages that his team could win gold. Even when they scored a remarkable nine-man golden-goal victory over favourites Brazil in the quarter finals, it was widely accepted that lack of depth after the send-offs and the fact they were about to face one of the world's deadliest strikers in Ivan Zamorano and his Chile team in the semi-finals, that this would be the end of their road.

And with six minutes to go they were gone, only to produce heroics for a second time scoring twice to clinch a spot in the final.

When Spain scored in the final after 75 seconds and then were awarded a penalty after four minutes it looked as though the African dream would end in silver. Although the penalty was saved, Spain still went into the break 2-0 up.

But the amazing spirit that is African would prove to make this game as memorable as the tournament itself.

Cameroon produced heroics for a third time in succession to level at 2-2 before ironically Spain were reduced to nine men.

No golden-goal this time, but a stunning penalty shoot-out win much to the delight of the underdog loving 98,212 crowd.

Full report page 9

Joe Watson Bids Farewell

By John Economos

With immense regret, we learn that former Australian World Cup right winger Joey Watson, has finally lost his biggest 'game', and that with his life.

The magnificent Joe Watson played 17 full internationals for Australia, including the extremely hard qualifiers for the 1986 World Cup.

In his battle against cancer, 'Little Joe' quietly past away last Saturday at the St George Hospital, Sydney.

Aged just 48, Australia's most magnificent crosser-of-the-ball, had been battling cancer of the liver since early August.

On August 8th, Joe was rushed to hospital where he underwent an operation that involved a large team of surgeons and which lasted no less than 22 hours.

This was the first type of operation ever performed in Australia. However the battle for complete recovery proved well beyond this little brave warrior's capacity to survive.

The diminutive, Watson, played over 300 NSL games for Hakoah and Sydney City.

After retiring from the playing pitch, Joey took up coaching Eastern Suburbs in the NSW State League. He later took over as Head coach of the Stanmore Hawks and for the past two seasons was Senior coach of the NSW Super League side, the Fairfield Bulls.

Immediately upon hearing of the former Scot's serious plight with his health, and the urgent need for a very expensive operation last month, literally hundreds of his former team-players and friends rallied strongly around their beloved player and mate.

Several functions and Benefit Matches were quickly organise, right across Sydney.

The respect for one Joey Watson was so powerful, that all five very well planned functions attracted huge support.

Joe Watson, you'll be greatly missed by all in Australian Soccer.

Thanks for the wonderful memories Joey.

On behalf of all our readers, the Management and Staff of the Australian and British Soccer Weekly, we extend our sincerest and deepest condolences to Joe Watson's wife Wafa, and children Kevin, David, Robbie and Jenny.

Funeral arrangements had still not been finalised at the time ABSW went to press late last night. However, for pending details please contact Alex Robertson on 0413 158 030.

Joey Watson: One of Australia's great Internationals.

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Serie A guide club by club PAGES 24 & 25

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LG CUP IN DUBAI

Late Changes for Farina

LG Socceroo Coach Frank Farina has made four changes to his squad, which will take on Kuwait and Korea in the LG Four Nations Cup, in Dubai.

Goalkeeper Frank Juric comes in to replace Mark Bosnich, Luke Casserly is in for Jacob Burns, Stuart Lovell will be looking to make his international debut for Australia, stepping in for Aurelio Vidmar and Olympian Michael Curcija has been brought in for David Zdrilic.

Frank Farina: Australian coach.

The re-vamped LG Socceroo Squad of 18 is:

NAME	POSITION	CLUB
JURIC Frank	Goalkeeper	Bayer Leverkusen (Germany)
KALAC Zeljko	Goalkeeper	Roda JC (Holland)
BLATSIS Con	Defender	Derby County (England)
COLOSIMO Simon	Defender	Carlton (Australia)
FOXE Hayden	Defender	West Ham (England)
LAYBUTT Stephen	Defender	Feyenoord (Holland)
MUSCAT Kevin	Defender	Wolverhampton Wanderers (England)
TIATTO Danny	Defender	Manchester City (England)
VIDMAR Tony	Defender	Rangers (Scotland)
CASSERLY Luke	Def/Mid	AIK Solna (Sweden)
CHIPPERFIELD Scott	Midfielder	Wollongong Wolves (Australia)
EMERTON Brett	Midfielder	Feyenoord (Holland)
LOVELL Stuart	Midfielder	Hibernian (Scotland)
SKOKO Josip	Midfielder	KRC Genk (Belgium)
WEHRMAN Kasey	Midfielder	Perth Glory (Australia)
AGOSTINO Paul	Striker	1860 Munich (Germany)
ALOISI John	Striker	Coventry City (England)
CURCIJA Michael	Striker	Partizan Belgrade (Yugoslavia)

Australia's two games are as follows:

Vs Kuwait Wednesday 4th Oct (Dubai)
Thursday 5th Oct (Sydney)
5.20pm (Dubai)/12.20am (Syd)

Vs Korea Saturday 7th Oct (Dubai)
Sunday 8th Oct (Sydney)
7.30pm (Dubai)/2.30am (Syd)

★★★ STOP PRSS ★★★

OLYMPIC CROWDS HIT ONE MILLION MARK

Melbourne's Olympic football games have proved a bonanza with record crowds on most nights. A total of 330,704 spectators watched a dozen games over seven nights. Hosting the world cup for women in 2003 has now become a real possibility as a result.

On a whole the Olympic football tournament produced over one million spectators, the final figure numbering 1 069 250 with the highest crowd of 98 212 turning out for the final at Stadium Australia.

★★★ STOP PRESS ★★★

Tynan - Eyre Cup raises $20 000 for foundation

The Victorian Soccer Federation and the four Victorian NSL clubs are proud to have once again worked with the Victoria Police to raise money for the Blue Ribbon Foundation. The Foundation aims to perpetuate the memory of police officers killed in the line of duty.

Each year, the VSF and the Blue Ribbon Foundation organise a pre-season cup competition for the Victorian NSL clubs. This year, South Melbourne were victorious with a very entertaining 3-1 victory over the lively Melbourne Knights at the Veneto Club, Bulleen on Friday 29 September. In the earlier game, Carlton also notched up a 3-1 scoreline to relegate the newly named Eastern Pride into 4th place. (Full reports page 7)

Crowds were pleasing over the four weeks, with an average of around 2000 people. It is predicted that the tournament has raised approximately $20,000 for the Foundation, and the VSF looks forward to a continued association with this cause.

TALKING WITH MR ED

I have to say that the last two weeks have made me feel very proud to be an Australian. Not because of our super organisation of the games or the numerous foreign press who I have met and have told me how fantastic Sydney is and Australians in general are.

What it has been is the amazing performances by athletes, not only Australian but of all nations.

I have seen the words 'Celebrate Humanity' on TV, heard them on radio and seen them in print, but the experience of an Olympic games really does bring you that one step closer to understanding what a celebration of humanity actually means.

I am not afraid to say that I am a passionate sports lover - football or otherwise, and there was many a time when my eyes swelled up and I felt over-awed by the Olympic spirit.

Whether I was at the event or heard it on the radio, whether I saw it on TV or even just read it in the daily press, I could not help but be enveloped by the incredible pleasure and pain that is endured by the athletes.

Gold medals are limited but winners are plentiful in the Olympic arena.

Our swimming performances were unparalleled and that amazing last second win for the Water Polo girls was incredible. Our two cycling gold medallists both overcame personal tragedy to win the highest accolade and one cyclist even stepped aside from his event to allow veteran Gary Niewand one last chance at an Olympic medal - he didn't disappoint winning silver, pipped on the line.

And of course, there wouldn't have been many dry eyes in the country when Cathy Freeman finally overcame so much pressure and expectation to win the 400 metre gold.

But it is the other stories that made me swell with pride.

Only in Australia could such downright fairness happen. We know all about this in soccer terms especially when it comes to refereeing and the one-sidedness we usually face overseas but continue to be fair here at home.

I read Mike Gibson's column in *The Daily Telegraph* a few days ago and he mentioned a young British walker, whose name escapes me - that's beside the point anyway.

The biggest cheer in the stadium that day was reserved for this young man - not because he won a gold but because he finished last in the 50km walk event.

Only in Australia can a crowd of over 100 000 get to their feet and applaud and cheer a foreigner who has battled just to finish. As Australians we love the battlers. Those whose goal was never to win, but just to be a part of something special, something unique.

Only in Australia can we make someone who is technically a loser, feel like a real winner. I mean we are the land that has a football code that gives you a point for missing!

Whether that young Brit ever competes again or not, he will certainly never forget the ovation he received at Stadium Australia on the day he finished last, more than 90 minutes behind the winner.

The Olympic games are full of these stories and I apologise if my column this week is not predominantly focussed on football. I just felt that waiting another four years might be a little too long to wait to pen my feelings.

Ed.

WA STADIUM DUE IN 2002

By Richard Kreider

Organised soccer may have been running in Western Australia since 1896, but the worldís greatest team sport has never been able to call anywhere home. But that is all about to change following the welcome news from the WA State Government that a purpose-built stadium for soccer and rugby, will be in operation by the year 2002.

'As important as the grand final being a historic event, so too was the announcement from the Premier of Western Australia, Mr Richard Court, together with the Minister of Sport, Norman Moore, that the new soccer stadium will commence construction next month and hopefully be ready for the 2002/2003 season,î said a delighted Paul Afkos who has played an important role together with the state government in getting a soccer venue in Perth.

From the 28 years of highs and lows during my involvement with soccer in this state, there are two memorable moments that stand out. The first was in June 1994 when former Soccer Australia chairman David Hill and myself, visited the WA Premier to discuss and inform Mr Court that Perth will have a team in the National Soccer League, commencing in 1996. The second momentous event, and not taking anything away from the grand final, was the announcement of the construction of a purpose-built stadium,' Afkos said.

Ideally situated next to the Entertainment Centre in Wellington Street, Perth, there is a bus and terminal close-by as well as six multi-storey car parks inside a 300-metre radius.

The open-plan design includes seating for 19,000 but this can be increased to 35,000 when Perth Glory becomes more successful. There will be four large television quality light towers for evening matches, while the spectators enjoy Subiaco Oval style seating. "The Shedí boys have also been considered and there will be a selected area at the northern end of the ground which itself will run in a North-South position.

The family has not been forgotten and will be looked after on the eastern side where a grassed area will allow families to enjoy the pre-match entertainment as well as the main event. The State Government have made it clear that the stadium will not only be exclusively for Perth Glory, it will be available for all of soccer to share its utilisation, particularly main event games of the various state soccer associations.

TRIAL GAMES

Parramatta Power and Newcastle will play a trial game at Valentine Park, Parklea on Saturday October 7th at 3pm.

ABSW's new email: soccer@foreignlanguage.com.au
soccerweekly@hotmail.com still available

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

ANTHONY RAINERI, twice at the helm as a former Editor of the Australian and British Soccer Weekly, yesterday, (Monday), at noon, (and to his credit), married his 26-year-old sweetheart and Accountant, Ms Denise Regan.

The newly weds signed up a 'life time contract' at Haberfield, Sydney.

After the service, guests were wined and dined at an Italian Restaurant at nearby Leichhardt.

At this stage it's not known where the newly weds plan to scoot off to spend their honeymoon.

However knowing how the meticulous and well-planning Anthony is, and anticipating Sydney's International Airport being chock-a-block for most of this week with hundreds of thousands of departing passengers following the closing down of the 'Super-Sydney Olympic Games', 'Good Oil' advises not to discount the placid surrounds of Port Macquarie as being the likely destination for these lovebirds.

Anthony Raineri

Congratulations kids.

●●●●

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS this Sunday will stage three blockbuster games at the Knights' Stadium, what is being billed as a 'Super Soccer Day'.

The main event is the 'Laurie Schwab Memorial Match' between NSL sides the Knights vs Carlton. Kick off at 6pm.

The curtain raiser at 4 pm sees the Knights' Legends clash with South Melbourne.

Kenny Murphy

The early match

By John Economos

at 2pm is between the Knights' Youth squad vs a Special Country Select XI.

"All gate proceeds will go to 'the Laurie Schwab Foundation' that assists young people in Soccer or Journalism in Soccer," stated the Melbourne Knights' General manager Rob Hrzic.

The Late Laurie Scwab was an outstanding, longserving ace Soccer scribe based in Melbourne.

●●●●

SOUTH MELBOURNE last Sunday at the Bob Jane Stadium, defeated Adelaide City 1-0 in front of 1,500 Soccer starved fans.

A long-ranged rocket blasted in the first minute by midfielder Richie Alagich, lifted the crowd to its feet and Souths to the lead.

Souths had taken the pitch minus several key players who had played last Friday evening in the 'Tynan-Eyre Cup win over the Melbourne Knights.

New coach Mickey Petersen gallantly introduced no less than seven players from Souths' Institute, to do battle against the far more experienced Adelaide City.

Souths' line-up: Jones: Iosifidis, De Amicis, Kisnorbo, Esposito, Alagich, Santielli, Panopoulos, Demourtzidis, Trimboli, Kalogeracos.

Subs: Lia, Petidis, Mancevski, Ovcin, Murdacca and Udvaracz.

●●●●

THE 2006 World Cup Finals that will be hosted by Germany, will blast off on June 10th, culminating to the Final that will be played on July 9th.

West German all-time great sweeper, captain, national coach then president, 'the Kaiser' Franz Beckenbauer, has already been installed as Chief organiser of the Germany Finals.

Who else but? The 2002 World Cup Finals that will be jointly hosted by Japan and Korea, is expected to be covered exclusively by the Nine Network.

We are led to believe that the Nine Network will only cover the last 16 games at the 2002 Finals, that is unless Frank Farina's Australian squad qualifies.

NSW POLICE SOCCER IN HONOUR OF POLICE OFFICERS KILLED

By John Economos

The NSW Police Force, in conjunction with NSW based NSL clubs plus three members of the NSW Super League teams, will this Sunday participate in the annual "Carty and Forsyth Memorial Cup Soccer Cup" at the Melita Stadium.

This Memorial Cup has been staged over the past three years in honour of the two very fine Police officers that were killed in the line of duty.

This Sunday, no less than 18 matches will be played starting from 10 am and culminating to the 'Grand Final' kicking off at 6 pm.

Over the past two years since this Cup has been played, Sydney United and the Wollongong Wolves have been the winners.

This year however, the Memorial Cup has been drastically expanded into a tournament: (see advert below).

The Cup has been organised by the NSW Police Force to assist in raising funds for the children of the two officers killed.

Constables David Carty and Peter Forsyth were killed in most tragic circumstances three years ago whilst in the line of duty.

FREE SOCCER CLINICS

During this special day, the NSL and State League clubs will also be staging FREE Soccer clinics for the children attending at the Melita Stadium.

The clinics are open to the whole community for all children under the age of 16.

Registrations are required prior to Sunday.

Ronnie Corry: Wollongong Wolves' coach.

REGISTRATIONS

Registrations for the Free Soccer Clinics may be made by contacting Inspector Doug McKenzie this week on 0413-260-834.

This is essential to be done for the organisers to plan.

The Free Soccer Clinics will be conducted at 9am, 11am, 1pm, and 3pm.

Admission charges are only $10 per adult with Pensioners and Students admitted for only $5.

All children under the age of 16 will be admitted free of charge.

Eddie Krncevic: Marconi coach.

CUP TOURNAMENT

The nine participating teams will be split into two Groups of Five.

The two ultimate winners of the two Groups will challenge for the Cup in the Grand Final starting at 6 pm.

The first match kicks off at 10 am and will see Sydney Olympic clash with Bonnyrigg White Eagles.

Game 2 starts at 10:25 am between Parramatta Power and Blacktown city.

Game 3 kicks off at 10.50am between Bonnyrigg White Eagles and the Northern Spirit.

Game 4 starts at 11.15am that sees Sydney Olympic clash with the Parramatta Power.

All matches will be played over a 25 minute session.

Please make the effort to take your families out to the Melita Stadium this Sunday.

BE THERE.

Fairfield Bulls Soccer Club

NSW Soccer Federation

SUPER CADET LEAGUE
SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

TRIALS

at

Nineveh Soccer Field

Smithfield Road, Edensor Park

U/11 & U/12 Mon 9 Oct & Wed 11 Oct, start 6pm
U/13 & U/14 Tues 10 Oct & Sat 14 Oct, start 6pm & 10am
U/15 & U/17 Sat 14 Oct & Mon 16 Oct, start 11am & 6pm

Contact — Emmanuel Kanna on 9609 7205

Leichhardt Tigers Soccer Club Inc.

Trials for Cadets, Super Youth League, & (Under 19s & 1st Grade by Invitation Only)

DIRECTOR of YOUTH COACHING, FORMER AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL, ARCHIE BLUE

Cadets

Venue: Leichhardt Oval No.2 Glover St, Leichhardt

Under 11		Under 12	
Saturday 7th October	1.00pm	Sunday 8th October	3.00pm
Saturday 14th October	1.00pm	Sunday 15th October	3.00pm
Saturday 21st October	1.00pm	Sunday 22nd October	3.00pm

Super Youth League

Venue: Leichhardt Oval No.2 Glover St, Leichhardt

Under 13			
Saturday 7th October 9.00am			
Monday 9th October	6.00pm	Saturday 14th October	9.00am
Monday 16th October	6.00pm	Saturday 21st October	9.00am
Under 14			
Tuesday 3rd October	6.00pm	Saturday 7th October	11.00am
Tuesday 10th October	6.00pm	Saturday 14th October	11.00am
Tuesday 17th October	6.00pm	Saturday 21st October	11.00am
Under 15			
Thursday 5th October	6.00pm	Sunday 8th October	9.00am
Thursday 12th October	6.00pm	Sunday 15th October	9.00am
Thursday 19th October	6.00pm	Sunday 22nd October	9.00am
Under 17			
Friday 6th October	6.00pm	Sunday 8th October	11.00am
Friday 13th October	6.00pm	Sunday 15th October	11.00am
Friday 20th October	6.00pm	Sunday 22nd October	11.00am

FOR ALL ENQUIRIES PLEASE PHONE LEICHHARDT TIGERS INFO LINES 9560 5414 (Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm) or Mobile: 0402 306 666

2000 DAVID CARTY & PETER FORSYTH MEMORIAL CUP

HOSTED BY THE NSW POLICE SERVICE SOCCER CLUB

SUNDAY OCTOBER 8th, 2000

10AM TILL 6PM

AT THE PARRAMATTA MELITA STADIUM

18 MATCHES OF 25 MINUTES.

GRAND FINAL AT 6PM

WINNER OF GROUP A
vs
WINNER OF GROUP B

PREVIOUS WINNERS: • 1998 SYDNEY UNITED • 1999 WOLLONGONG WOLVES

GROUP A	GROUP B
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	MARCONI STALLIONS
BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES	PARRAMATTA EAGLES
BLACKTOWN CITY	WOLLONGONG WOLVES
NORTHERN SPIRIT	SYDNEY UNITED
PARRAMATTA POWER	

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

By John Economos

SOCCER AUSTRALIA last week made it official and confirmed that the Wollongong Wolves will represent Australia in the World Club Championships qualifying series conducted by the Oceania Confederation.

The qualifiers are expected to be played during January 2001.

A win for the Wollongong Wolves would nail down a place in the World Club Championships that will be staged in Spain next August.

Ronnie Corry: Wollongong Wolves' newly signed coach.

To qualify, Wollongong must play in a round robin series with semis and a final against the 10 other club champions of the other member nations of the Oceania Confederation.

The 11 member nations are: American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Tonga and Vanuatu.

However to date, it's still unknown whether all the above nations will enter such qualifiers, economics being the key hindering factor.

●●●●

THE SNOWY HYDRO CUP, the second to be staged in Cooma, will this year be played at Nijong Oval this Saturday (October 7th).

Ante Juric: Olympic's captain.

The Snowy Hydro Cup will battled for between the Canberra Cosmos and Sydney Olympic.

Kick off has been set down for 2.30pm with other pre-match events starting at noon.

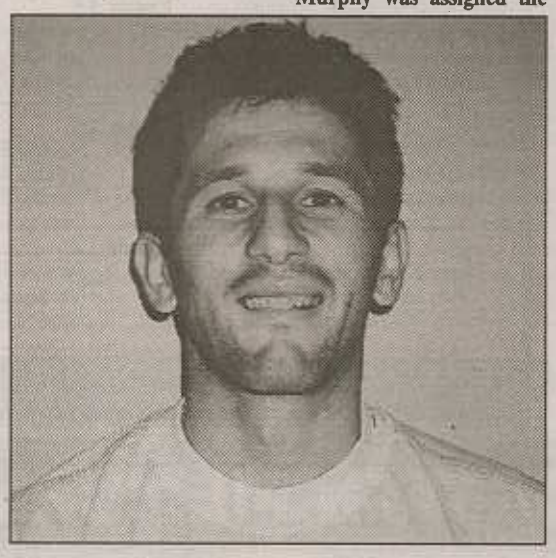
●●●●

MILAN IVANOVIC, 'the Prince of sweepers' for a decade in the NSL, has sadly parted company with Adelaide City.

The former fabulous Australian international defender failed to come to terms with City in negotiating a new coaching contract with the Club's State League team.

Milan arrived in Adelaide from Red Star Belgrade in 1989 and soon became the darling and legend of the NSL as well as for the Australian World Cup side.

After retiring last year, Ivanovic took over the coaching of Adelaide City's State League side.



Milan Ivanovic: Parts company with Adelaide City.

●●●●

SEPP BLATTER, President of FIFA, in an exclusive interview with SBS last week, stated Australia could easily stage a World Cup.

"When a City such as Sydney, or a country such as Australia is able to organise at such high level, the Olympic Games with over 10,000 athletes, 10,000 officials plus 10,000 more media people, they are able to organise the FIFA World Cup.

"With the actual infrastructure, Australia would need only, let's say, two more stadia in order to be able to bid for the World Cup

Sepp Blatter: FIFA president says Australia can handle a World Cup.

●●●●

SBS-TV, the 'Super Soccer Channel', on Thursday November 16th, will bring in the Live telecast of Scotland vs Australia, direct from Hampden Park in Glasgow.

It's almost 15 years to the day that Australia clashed with Scotland on the very same pitch for a 1986 World Cup qualifier, the first of two legs.

A piece of nostalgia for those who care to remember.

Australia on that night was magnificent.

Skippered by ace-striker John Kosmina, Australia clashed with Scotland's star-studded side was led by Liverpool's steel-tough central midfield enforcer, Graeme Souness.

That night Australia's tenacious midfielder Kenny Murphy was assigned the unenviable task of shackling Souness.

On the right flank, (and recently deceased), little Joey Watson was Australia's fine playmaker.

One of Australia's other granite-hard soldiers was tough-guy David ('Bronson') Ratcliffe who had the herculean task to man-mark Scotland's great, 'King' Kenny Dalglish.

When the gun-smoke had settled, a most relieved Scotland ended up scraping home with a very valuable 2-0 win.

However in the return leg played on a frosty night at Melbourne's jam-packed Olympic Park, Scotland experienced the greatest 'escape', not seen since Steve McQueen saddled his thunderous Harley in a W.W.I.I. P.O.W Camp. That most memorable 'Battle in Melbourne' ended in a scoreless draw.

John Kosmina: Australia's captain against Scotland.

A blind reflex block executed by Scotland's veteran goalkeeper Jimmy Leighton, cruelly denied the Australian captain Kosmina of an incredible goal that got Scotland out of jail.

●●●●

SWINDON TOWN boasts two Australian players this season.

Marconi's mobile goalscoring right wingback Danny Invincibile was the first to sign after just missing the cut at West Ham.

Robust midfielder Mark Robertson, who for the past two seasons has been at Burnley, has also joined Swindon.

Danny Invincibile: One of two 'Vegemites' at Swindon Town.

SYDNEY UNITED this Friday will play a friendly against NSW Super League side the Leichhardt Tigers at the completely returfed Sydney United Sports Centre at 6.30pm.

Entry will be free.

The Club's newly appointed coach Alan Hunter has been able to assemble a most respectable and competitive team during the off season.

One of Hunter's coup signings has been former Marconi veteran striker, the gangling Francis Awaritefe.

Francis Awaritefe: Already firing in pre-season at United.

Adult Season Passes ($200), to all United home games are now on sale at the Club's office which can be contacted on (02) 9823 6418.

●●●●

PERTH GLORY last week appointed former Director and shareholder of the Northern Spirit, Mr Emmanuel Zammit as the Glory's new Football Manager.

Glory's General manager Roger Lefort stated:

"Manny Zammit, a key force in the early development of the Northern Spirit, is the man who will take on the vital task of establishing a setting in which Australia's best Soccer talent can flourish under the Glory umbrella."

It's anticipated that Zammit will split his time between the West and East.

●●●●

Over 10,000 athletes competing at the Sydney Olympics were encouraged to take back 'home' Australian Woollen quilts provided at the Village.

With the compliments of the Woolmark Company, 23,000 quilts have been supplied for every athlete, official and member of the media to take 'home' as a fabulous memento of their stay in Australia.

●●●●

SBS-TV will cover Live Australia's two matches in the 'L.G.Cup' in a four nations tournament to be played this week in Dubai.

The other three national teams come from the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and South Korea to contest for the 'L.G. Cup 2000'.

All the matches, two double headers, will be played at the Al Naser Club Stadium in Dubai.

As is usual, SBS will provide the exclusive Live telecast of both games involving Australia.

SBS on Thursday morning will telecast Live (2.15 am Eastern States, 1.15 am Queensland, 12.45 am South Australia and Darwin, 2.15am Perth-delayed) the first match Kuwait vs Australia.

On Sunday morning, SBS will again beam in Live (12 am Eastern States, 11 pm (Sat 7th) Queensland, 10.30 pm (Sat 7th), South Australia and Darwin 9.00 pm (Saturday 7th), Perth) the second match, South Korea vs Australia.

National coach Frank Farina's 18 man travelling squad selection is as follows:

Goalkeepers: Bosnich and Kalac.

Defenders: Foxe, Laybutt, Blatsis, Muscat, Tiatto, Colosimo, T. Vidmar.

Midfielders: Emerton, Skoko, Wehrman, Burns, A. Vidmar, Chipperfield.

Strikers: Agostino, J.Aloisi, Zdrilic.

The tournament kicks off this Thursday (a.e.s.t.) with prize money to the overall winner totalling almost $90,000.

Some 7,000 Australians work and live in Dubai.

All matches are night games (Dubai time), and will be played as 'double headers'.

The first game this Thursday, sees the UAE clash with South Korea followed by the late game (covered by SBS) between Australia and Kuwait.

John Aloisi: Australia's striker in Dubai Tournament.

On Sunday (a.e.s.t.) sees Australia take on South Korea (covered by SBS) in the early game, followed by UAE battling it out with Kuwait.

●●●●

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil

By John Economos

THE PARRAMATTA POWER Soccer Club has once again signed up the 'Power Credit Union' as it major sponsor for the new Season.

The Power Credit Union with its head office in the very heart of the Parramatta district, has signed a two-year contract deal with the Power Soccer Club. "We're delighted to continue our support of the Parramatta Power Soccer Club.

Alex Tobin: New signing by the Parramatta Power.

"Working together with the team and the Club's administrators will strengthen our presence as the leading Credit Union in the greater Western area of Sydney," stated Mr Vince Del Zio, the Power Credit Union's C.E.O.

The Parramatta Power already announced in ABSW, has signed up former international Alex Tobin, Nick Orlic, Hamilton Thorp, Andrew Crews and Les Pogliacomi.

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SCOTTY OLLERENSHAW, the former St George and Australian international flank-striker, is briefly back in Sydney attending many of the events at the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

The dynamic red-haired mobile goalscorer left Australia back in 1995 to play fulltime Soccer with top club side Sabah in the Malaysian National League.

Together with Australian ace-coach Ronnie Smith, Ollerenshaw lifted Sabah in the first season there to win the League championship, also coming narrowly close to taking out the Malaysian Cup as well.

The most affable Scotty these days still lives with his wife and children in Sabah and is about to open up a brand new American franchised business tagged 'Coffee Beans & Tea Leaves'.

This business venture is very similar to the 'Star Buck Coffee' lounges that have recently sprung up all around Sydney.

"It's great to be back in Sydney catching up with old friends," Ollerenshaw stated to 'Good Oil' last night.

"I've been to eight events at the Olympics and must honestly say that Sydney has done an absolutely magnificent job with the Games.

"Maybe Sydney should become the permanent 'home' for the Olympics.

"They could not be staged any better, anywhere else in the world really," Scotty patriotically preached.

●●●●

AN NSL Club is about to announce a huge three year major sponsorship deal that is already being muted around the traps to be valued at more than $1million.

It's going to see alot of 'money being exchanged'.

The Club in question has over the past four years had a major sponsor that at first was contributing $100,000 per season.

However over the past three years this sum had been elevated to $150,000 per season.

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SPEAKING of huge sponsorships deals, late last week the pending 15 year sponsoring deal involving British giants Manchester United, will take a few years to be beaten.

Nike, is said to be prepared to pour into United's coffers at Old Trafford the staggering sum of $791 million over 15 years.

Amongst many of the conditional clauses in the complex contracts between United and Nike, is a condition that incumbent manager, Sir Alex Ferguson is replaced in the near future.

Sir Alex Ferguson: Out, for $791 million to come in.

A most strange condition somewhat.

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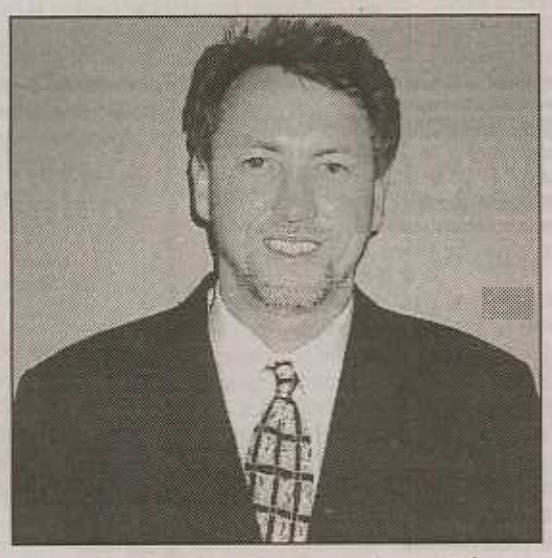

David Mitchell: The Power's Head coach.

THE PARRAMATTA POWER today, (Tuesday), will stage a Media Season Launch luncheon at noon to be held at the Muirfield Golf Course at North Rocks.

At the launch the Power will unveil its new NSL squad line-up as well as the new captain for the coming season.

After the lunch, members of the media will be invited to play a round of golf with the Power's coaching and playing staff.

●●●●

KENNY WORDEN, the former coach of the Melbourne Knights who went to Malaysia to coach various teams during the mid-90s, is back in Malaysia today.

Worden has taken over the struggling team at Sabah and hopes to revive their status.

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MARCONI must be the NSL's most invited club around.

Two weeks ago Marconi was invited to play an exhibition match in Adelaide by 'sister club' Adelaide City.

Last weekend Marconi was invited to play the Brisbane Strikers up in sunny Cairns in Queensland.

And this coming weekend Marconi travels to New Zealand to play the Auckland Kingz.

All these invitations couldn't have come at a better time as Marconi's Head coach Eddie Krncevic has been unable to access his own home training pitches at Marconi Stadium, as they've been booked, and blocked out, by SOCOG for the recently completed Sydney 2000 Games.

Krncevic and his squad of late have really become frequent fliers.

In fact the only more frequent fliers around, have feathers.

●●●●

SYDNEY OLYMPIC last Friday flew to Perth to play two exhibition matches against the Perth Glory.

Troy Halpin: One of Olympic's new signings.

Both matches however were not played in Perth.

The first was played at Newman whilst the second was played at Karratha.

In the first game last Saturday night, Glory drew 0-0 with Olympic.

The second match between these two sides was played last night, (Monday), well after ABSW had gone to press.

Sydney Olympic this Sunday will participate in the 'David Carty and Peter Forsyth Memorial Cup' tournament that will be played all day at the Melita Stadium in South Granville.

Scotty Ollerenshaw: Back in town.

Eddie Krncevic: Marconi's coach flying his well invited team all around the place.

MANLY WARRINGAH DOLPHINS

feeder club to
NORTHERN SPIRIT
a subsidiary of the Glasgow Rangers

TRIAL DATES FOR SEASON 2001
Venue: CROMER PARK — 161 South Creek Road, Dee Why

SUPER LEAGUE

Men's 1st Grade
Please send resume to:
Manly Warringah Dolphins
PO Box 455
Narrabeen 2101
or Fax to 9982-6577
For further information:
Phone: 9982-6228

Men's Under 21's & Under 18's
Venue: Cromer Park, Dee Why

Day:	Date:	Time:
Wednesday	18th October	6.00pm
Friday	20th October	6.00pm
Monday	23th October	6.00pm
Wednesday	25th October	6.00pm
Friday	27th October	6.00pm

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

Under 17's & Under 15's
Venue: Cromer Park, Dee Why

Day:	Date:	Time:
Thursday	5th Oct.	6.00pm
Thursday	12th Oct.	6.00pm
Saturday	14th Oct.	10.00am

Under 14's & Under 13's
Venue: Cromer Park

Day:	Date:	Time:
Tuesday	3rd Oct.	5.30pm
Tuesday	10th Oct.	6.00pm
Saturday	14th Oct.	10.00am

JUNIOR/SUPER CADET LEAGUE

Under 12's & Under 11's
Venue: Cromer Park, Dee Why

Day:	Date:	Time:	Day:	Date:	Time:
Monday	9th Oct.	5.30pm	Monday	16th Oct.	6.00pm
Wednesday	11th Oct.	6.00pm	Tuesday	17th Oct.	6.00pm

For further information regarding the Youth & Junior contact: Geoff Lake 0419 689 402

LADIES SUPER LEAGUE

1st Grade & Under 21's
Venue: Cromer Park, Dee Why

Day:	Date:	Time:
Friday	6th Oct.	6.00pm
Friday	13th Oct.	6.00pm

For further information contact:
Robert McCallum 0410 478 917

Under 16's & Under 14's
Venue: Cromer Park, Dee Why

Day:	Date:	Time:
Friday	6th Oct.	6.00pm
Friday	13th Oct.	6.00pm

For further information contact:
Wendy Aouad 0414 603 772

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GOALKEEPER COACH
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English & Argentinian methods
Carlos Garin 0409 082 171

SYDNEY OLYMPIC SOCCER FOOTBALL CLUB
Super Cadet & Super Youth League Trials
Cooke Park, Belfield
Trials to be held on:
Sunday, 8th October
Sunday, 15th October
Sunday, 22nd October
9.00am to 11.30am — U11s, U12s, U13s
1.00pm to 3.30pm — U14s, U15s, U17s
For further information, please contact the office on
☎ (02) 9558 5355

OFF THE CROSSBAR

By Allan Crisp

THIS DOZEN WILL NOT BE CHEAP

It may be a bumpy ride, but perennial finalist Adelaide City Force is aiming to qualify for its 12th successive championship play-off finals in this 2000-2001 season.

The Force just managed its usual last gasp entry into the finals last season after a dreadfully tardy start saw them again reduced to a virtual handicap entrant.

History tells us that Adelaide City managed just one victory from its first 11games last season, but a heroic comeback blasted the Force into the business end of the campaign.

A parlous financial situation caused by a hangover from the previous season has hindered the club's pre-season progress.

Yet, optimistic sounds about pending sponsorships keep coming from within the club's portals and perhaps an announcement will be made to coincide with City's planned season launch on Friday (October 6).

South Australians with the interests of soccer at heart certainly hope that City will rise to the challenge, because the club will be flying the State sporting flag solo.

The good news is that super coach Zoran Matic, with three Adelaide City championships already etched on his gun belt, will again be in charge.

The bad news is that Adelaide City has not tasted NSL title success since 1994 and will embark on this journey without long serving captain Alex Tobin, leading scorer Damian Mori and Tobinís defensive mirror image, Angelo Costanzo.

Add to that arguably indispensable list, City's Rookie of The Year, Matthew Kemp, young defender Michael Cartwright and Korean Dong Ki Kim and the Force looks a lot less forceful.

But, Matic will have at his disposal a mixture of experience and talent-laden youth to form a playing cocktail that just might be quite deadly.

Aurelio Vidmar, who reluctantly rejected an offer from Socceroo coach Frank Farina to join the Australian squad for the four nations in Dubai, will lead the side, with the equally vastly experienced Carl

Veart as his deputy.

City started its rebuilding process by recruiting former Melbourne Knights captain Ante Kovacevic and by re-signing goalkeeper Adrian Cagalj, who after going on loan last season from Carlton made 11 impressive appearances in goal for the Adelaide side.

Computer programmer Kovacevic will have Olyroo squad defender Ivan Zelic and Italian import Fabrizio Bucharelli as his central defensive partners in the new look City formation.

Walter Dondoni, who with Bucharelli, was brought to Adelaide by club president Bob D'Ottavi, has returned home after failing to gain the required level of fitness.

City's youthful endeavour will be supplied by Lucas Pantelis, Louis Brain and the clubís promoted Premier League players, Shane Thompson, Chris Reeves and Scott Tunbridge.

Newly signed Mario Karlovic, 16, and his elder brother Ivan, 18, are from Premier League club Raiders.

Under 17 Joey Aaron Goulding of Elizabeth Rams, has been training with the Force and is likely to sign, while outstanding goalkeeper Daniel Godley should be second string to Cagalj

Newcastle striker Chris Tanchevski has been hampered by injury during the pre-season, but has been pencilled in as a leading squad member.

James Monie, 17, who impressed during a trial against Perth Glory in Adelaide, is a target for Matic, but the solidly built player will not be available until after he completes his studies in November,

Finances will determine when the club books are closed, but the likely Adelaide Force squad could read something like this – Cagalj, Godley, Kovacevic, Ligati, Zelic, M. Karlovic, I. Karlovic, Sabljak, Hassell, Veart, Vidmar, Brain, Pelosi, Day, Tanchevski, Pantelis, Reeves, Thompson, Tunbridge, Goulding.

With personnel changes so numerous and with so many star players leaving, why should Adelaide City fans contemplate a better start this season?

"We expect to be very competitive," said Adelaide City marketing and events manager Angelo Picca.

"For one thing, this has been the best preparation the squad has had for six years. Weíve played more trial games than other seasons, apart from when we toured Vietnam."

The Force will round off their pre-season work with a game against South Melbourne at Albert Park on Sunday.

CROWS AID FORCE

Who said rival football codes were suspicious and perhaps even jealous of each other?

That is certainly not the case concerning the relationship between Adelaide City and the Adelaide Crows "Aussie Rules" club.

The soccer boys not only have been allowed full use of the Crows ample state of the art facilities at Football Park, but Crows fitness co-ordinator, Steven Schwerdt has been putting the City men through a rigorous pre-season routine.

LUNCH LAUNCH

The previously mentioned Adelaide City season launch on Friday, October 6, will be held at the Hyatt Regency Ballroom at noon.

Another important occasion planned is the unveiling of the Force's new away game strip for the new season.

While the traditional black and white vertical stripes will be worn at home matches, the away strip (there could be more than one) is expected to feature the SA State colours of red, blue and yellow.

OLYMPIC SPIN OFF

SOCOG event organiser for the Hindmarsh Stadium tournament, Sam Ciccarello, was justifiably proud of the way the seven Adelaide matches were staged.

Ciccarello believes that local games will benefit through larger attendances because many of the fans who paid to see the Olympic matches were newcomers to the sport.

"Many of those people were impressed by what they saw and have promised to return to sample the local product," he said.

Allan Crisp can be heard each Tuesday from 7.30am-9am on the SRPH Breakfast Soccer Show (1197AM) along with former Australian international John Perin, Channel 10 sports presenter Robbie Popplestone, Advertiser soccer writer Meno Toutsidis and Australian and British Soccer Weekly editor Vince Battiato.

WOLLONGONG NEWS

By Otto Bader

Wolve sponsors launch – an integral part of the club's survival in the tough national soccer league are business sponsors. On Wednesday October 4 at the Hoyts Cinemas in Warrawong according to Wolves General Manager a function will be staged to bring together sponsors, players, coaching staff, administration staff, shareholders, minor financial supporters, friends and soccer fans cordially invited with the announcement of a new sponsorship deal of major nature. Hopefully the future of the Wolves is then looking much more secure and finances become available to stabilise the playing staff.

■■■■

New starter – from Vanuatu is on the move to the Wolves in Richard Iwai, a 23-year-old striker and National team member, supposed to be the small country's outstanding player. He will train with the club, hoping to gain the nod from coach Ron Corry for a contract.

■■■■

World Club Championship – it took its time but now Soccer Australia has confirmed that the Wolves will represent Australia in the prestigious and financial rewarding event. The qualification series conducted by the Oceania Football Confederation will be held in January 2001 with champion clubs from Oceania which include New Zealand, Tahiti, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Cook Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and American Samoa plus the Australian Champion the Wollongong Wolves. It won't be easy to survive the round robin series to be played in PNG on inferior playing surfaces and in very humid conditions. If the Wolves make it the reward is participation in the World Club Championship held in Spain during August 2001.

■■■■

Successful Trial – in a recent friendly the Wolves continued their solid form playing against Parramatta Melita Eagles at No 2 Brandon Park, winning 3-1 with goals from Alvin Ceccoli, Scott Chipperfield and Stuart Young. The first half saw good play by the Wolves fielding their best possible formation with goalkeeper Daniel Beltrame, defence David Cervinski, Ben Blake, Alvin Ceccoli, George Souris all solid, the midfield with David Huxley, Matt Horsley, Paul Reid well controlled, forwards Scott Chipperfield, Stuart Young and Saso Petrovski always dangerous. In the second half replacements were made with regulars Robbie Stanton, Dino Mennillo plus new keeper Tynan Scope. Several others were kept on the bench indicating plenty of depth for the coach. Unfortunately the side found themselves playing on the smaller No 2 Brandon Park, used by local Premier League club Wollongong Olympic, while Brandon Park proper was idle.

It surprises the fans that on the main ground the rugby league goal posts were still up and not removed in the week for soccer goals, not very well looked at by the hardened supporters turning up for the friendly match.

Several more trial games are planned during the time for the kick-off against Perth Glory on October 14, a replay of the June Grand final. Reports from Perth are not at all in favour of the two teams meeting in such short time again, they would have preferred a much later in the season date.

However, the draw is out and this rematch is on. Perth having signed a number of new players in former Adelaide striker Damian Mori, from Newcastle defender Shane Pryce, from Marconi midfield player Brad Maloney and from Canberra P.J. Roberts.

They have lost from last season Troy Halpin and Ivan Ergic. The experience of coach Bernd Stange will mould a strong force, giving the Wolves a tough opposition.

■■■■

Chipperfield possibly going overseas - the talented striker is seriously considering a move to England in the near future. At present he is with the Socceroos in Dubai to play against Kuwait and South Africa.

Coach Frank Farina took a large squad away and hopefully Chipperfield stars in some of the matches. He will be out to prove to the national coach that he is worth a place in the starting line-up.

At 24 Scott Chipperfield has to make a decision in what direction his career is to take in the few years left in top soccer.

If he departs the doors will open for local product Western Suburbs striker Frank Barila who trains with the Wolves. The coach will cast a critical eye over his performance in the coming trials before deciding to offer him a permanent spot in the squad.

Another striker eager to play more regularly is Saso Petrovski now that former Fijian Esala Masi is gone. Last season he had to share time with Masi and spend time on the bench, now looking for a starting place and scoring plenty of goals.

■■■■

A compliment is due to Wollongong University, for years coached by Daniel McGoldrick and probably for many more season to come, for their exceptional record in players controlled discipline on and off the field. Not one player has been sent off in any of their three grades during the whole season.

This is a remarkable record, setting an example for other clubs to follow if they wish to save money for red cards with some sides showing a terrible record in paying hefty amounts over the past season.

It is always great to play against the Students who field a team of amateurs, playing the game in the right spirit, enjoying themselves and winning their share of points. They completed last soccer season in 5th position of the table out of 16 teams.

CHINA TOUR FOR COSMOS

By Graham Cooke

Canberra Cosmos goalkeeper Angelo Konstantinou has a poisoned shin, and has missed the club's tour to China, coach Tom Sermanni said before the team left late last week.

Sermanni has decided against a last-minute replacement, which means that Barney Smith will be the only goalkeeper in an 18-strong squad.

The coach said he was disappointed that what had originally been a three-match tour had been reduced to one game in seven days. "I would have liked more match practice, but on the positive side I have the entire squad together for a full week," he said.

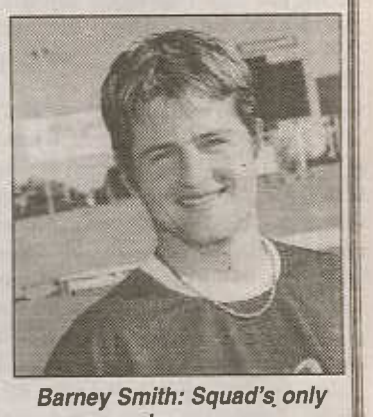
"As long as we can get in some good, solid training sessions we should receive some benefit from it."

Also in the squad is Marcus Phillips the former Sydney Olympic midfielder and visa player. He has yet to commit himself to the Cosmos, but Sermanni says he now has high hopes of signing a man whose previous clubs also include Swindon Town in England, Marconi and Sydney United.

"At first I thought he would be out of our price range, but now I'm not so sure," he said. "If we can bring him to the club, then that would be a big bonus."

While many of the players who will make the trip have yet to sign contracts, one definitely back in the fold is defender Robbie Hooker.

That means Hooker will continue in his role as captain, a position he



Barney Smith: Squad's only keeper

filled with distinction last season, at the same time giving Sermanni some much-needed on-field consistency.

Other new names on the China trip include two overseas trialists, New Zealander Brad Scott and Englishman Barry Guilford, Blacktown City transfer targets Mark Hagger and Naoki Imaya, and local youngsters Andy Rakic and Daniel Camara.

Sermanni said he will also be taking advantage of a stopover in Japan to talk to a J-League player who may be interested in coming to Australia.

THE FULL SQUAD

Barney Smith, Robbie Hooker, Toplica Popovich, Nic Purdue, David Milin, David Arranz, Andy Rakic, Barry Guilford, Marcus Phillips, Andy Ravenello, Naoki Imaya, Shane Lyons, Ilija Prenzoski, Alex Castro, Brad Scott, Mark Hagger, Jon Angelucci, Daniel Camara.

TYNAN-EYRE CUP

CUP GOES TO SOUTH

Sth Melbourne	3
Melb. Knights	1

By Bert van Bedaf

It wasn't the MCG or Olympic football, but gold, silver and bronze medals were at stake as the Tynan-Eyre Cup climaxed on Blue Ribbon Day at the Veneto Social Club, Bulleen, last Friday night.

Watched by a crowd of 2000 (and record crowds have been turning up during the four rounds), South Melbourne beat Melbourne Knights 3-1 in the final to win the trophy.

It was the first prize won by Mickey Petersen as coach of South

Melbourne and he was quite pleased to cap the tournament, unbeaten and with resounding victories over local rivals a fortnight away from the start of the NSL season.

Carlton claimed bronze with a comfortable 3-1 win over Eastern Pride, who finished last in the tournament without a point. The Gippsland club goes into the NSL season yet to find the quality that will lift them into

top-six contention.

The South machine cranked into gear with remarkable fluidity, considering the extremely slippery conditions. It nudged in front after nine minutes. Mark Burton started the move from the right of midfield.

Vaughan Coveny crossed wide from the right and goal poacher John Anastasiadis volleyed into the net inside the area ahead of his marker Rody Vargas.

South raced further ahead in the 17th minute with speed and aggression.

Andy Vlahos stole the ball off Jason Vukadin and set up former Knights player Zeljko Susa, whose low shot flew underneath the outstretched body of Knights 'keeper Martin John.

The Knights halved South's lead in the 27th minute after David Clarkson played a square ball in defence. Xhezair Sulemani quickly intercepted and blasted the ball on target. South keeper Michael Petkovic managed to impede its path, but pace forced it over the line.

Knights striker Joel Porter almost equalised with a powerful run into the South defence in the 34th minute, but Petkovic spread himself wide and blocked Porter's scorching left-footer before it was cleared.

Portuguese striker Toto Da Costa, playing his first full match for the Knights, showed his skills and vision as he found space just inside the area from a loose ball and narrowly missed, wedged between Mehmet Durakovic and Patrick Kisnorbo, with a sliding shot that went wide.

Da Costa again featured prominently three minutes from half time with a great run on the right, which should have netted the Knights an equaliser.

The sparkling visa-player from Holland accepted a through-ball from Joe Kozic and sped past Steve Iosifidis to the goal line. He crossed into the goalmouth, where Sulemani took the ball on the volley. Petkovic was well-beaten, but the ball flew just wide of the far post.

The Knights rued their missed chances, when seven minutes into the second half, Patrick Kisnorbo sealed gold for South. Vlahos took the corner cross and Kisnorbo, a former Bulleen junior before joining South

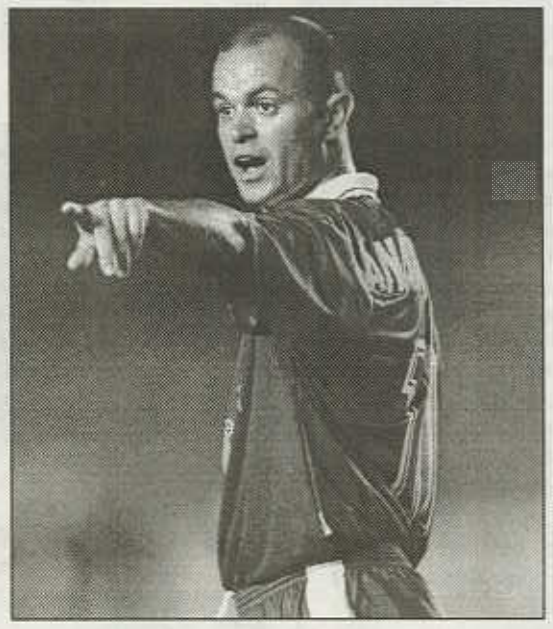
Melbourne's youth squad, rose high above the Knights defence to head home South's third goal.

South created several more chances and should have gone further ahead in the 73rd minute. Elias Demourtzidis went through the Knights defence, but his wild shot from 20 metres went wide.

Kisnorbo was again on target with a powerful header, but John stretched high and palmed the ball for a corner. He also came the rescue with a punching clearance in the hectic final phase.

John proved himself for a third time in the 82nd minute with a divingsave after Vaughan Coveny had headed the ball down to the far corner from a Paul Trimboli cross.

Unlucky with the second goal, when he appeared to have dived over theball, John made several decisive saves in the second half, keeping the Knights from losing by a much bigger margin.



John Anastasiadis: Scorer.

In the bronze play-off, Carlton had the better of Eastern Pride, scoringtwo goals inside a minute in the first half.

Andrew Packer struck both goals and also set up David Terminello, who had his shot parried by Pride 'keeper Bojo Jevdjevic.

But the Pride 'keeper came off second best in the one-on-one with Packer, who went around him and hit an exposed net after 39 minutes.

He also beat Jevdjevic with a powerful shot a minute later. The Pride guardsman got a hand to the ball, but it continued to roll beyond his grasping hands and crossed the line.

Earlier in the match, Carlton watched in amazement as the ball hit the post in a scramble from a corner. David Terminello also had shot on target in the 27th minute, but on that occasion Jevdjevic parried.

Among Carlton's best players, Packer put in a fine cross in the 36th minute to release Robbie Middleby, who took the ball on the volley. But Jevdjevic saved well. Therefore, it was more the pity for the Pride that Carlton went so easily ahead during that late spell of sustained pressure before the break.

The Easterners created their first opportunity in the 48th minute. James St Louis stole the ball off Lubo Lapsansky, but the Pride forward followed up with a weak shot that did not trouble Carlton keeper Dean Anastasiadis.

Carlton quickly took the initiative again, pressing forward, while Pride tried to mount its own offensive in a bid to peg back a goal or two.

Daniel Vasilevski found an opening in the Pride defence from a Packer cross, but Jevdjevic managed to palm the ball away from the top corner at the far post. Ange Motsiopoulos headed wide from a Vaselevski cross a minute later and Terminello released a long range shot in the 68th minute that went wide of the right post as Carlton continued to press.

Carlton made sure of victory with a third goal in the 72nd minute, when Lapsansky crossed and Motsiopoulos struck the ball high into the net.

St Louis wasted a golden opportunity to score for the Pride in the 75th minute. The Pride forward again worked his way through the Carlton defence and rounded Anastasiadis, but he side-footed the ball over the bar in front of an open goal.

Pride kept plugging away and St Louis finally struck the net in the 78th minute for a consolation goal.

Zeljko Susa: Scored against his old club.

RYDE CITY SOCCER CLUB

Invites suitable applications with minimum Intermediate Level Certificate for the 2001 season for the following coaching positions:

Youth League — Division 1

U/13's, U/14's, U/15's and U/16's

Cadet League — Division 1

U/11's and U/12's

Note: Assistant coaches may also apply.
All applications should be addressed to:-

The Secretary
Ryde City Soccer Club
PO Box 391,
North Ryde NSW 1670
Or Fax 9887 1324

Trials for Cadet and Youth League to to be held on:

Sunday 8th, 15th, 22nd October, 2000

For further information contact Youth Director Warwick Andrews. Phone: 9899 4044 (after hours)

HAJDUK WANDERERS SC

Applications are invited for the 2001 season for the following coaching positions

SUPER LEAGUE

U/18's, U/21's & 1st Grade

YOUTH LEAGUE DIVISION 1

U/13's, U/14's, U/15's & U/16's

CADET LEAGUE

U/11's & U/12's

Applications to be sent to:
The Secretary
PO Box 200
PENDLE HILL NSW 2145

Enquiries Contact: Charles Abdilla
9757 2906 or 0416 171 896
Applications Close: 29th September, 2000

STANMORE HAWKS SOCCER CLUB

56-58 Stanmore Road, Stanmore 2042

SELECTION TRIALS
FOR ALL GRADES —

- SENIORS IN NSWF SUPER LEAGUE
- DIVISION 1 YOUTH LEAGUE AND CADET LEAGUE

★★★★

SENIOR GRADES PLAYING IN
SUPER LEAGUE *(winter season)*
(First Grade, Under 21 and Under 18)
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 October, 2000 at Tempe Reserve, Holbeach Avenue, Tempe — 6.30pm

★★★★

DIVISION 1 **YOUTH LEAGUE** (U13s to U16s)
And **CADET LEAGUE** (U11s and U12s)
Mondays and Wednesdays commencing from 4th October 2000
Tempe Reserve, Holbeach Avenue, Tempe — 6.30pm

Enquiries: **FIRST GRADE:**
George Lazarou (coach) Tel. 0414 972 147
UNDER 18S AND 21S:
Peter Kittos 0407 407 014 or 9547 3399
YOUTH LEAGUE:
Soto Mavros 0417 653 979, 9560 8999 or Mr Tom Gambreills 9588 1215
CADET LEAGUE:
John Sopina 0418 970 913

ALL ARE WELLCOME

THE NEW ELITE PREMIER LEAGUE

SOCCER TRIALS

Sunday 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
OCTOBER 2000
KINGSWOOD PARK
First & Second Ave, Kingswood

Super Cadet	U/11s 9am
	U/12s 10.30am
Super Youth	U/13s 12noon
	U/14s 1.30pm
	U/15s 3.00pm
	U/17s 4.30pm

Director of Coaching
Stan Ackerley 0409 304 900

Penrith Panthers is a member of the Parramatta Power Centre of Excellence Program.

Bronze Medal

CHILE TAKE THE BRONZE

Chile	2
USA	0

By Vince Battiato at the SFS

Over five million Chileans awoke at 5am their time to watch their Olympic squad led by national icon Ivan Zamorano clinch their first Olympic medal in any sport since 1988 when they won the Bronze medal after defeating USA 2-0.

The Americans looked the hungrier early as Chile were tentative, preferring not to lose rather than go out to win the match wholeheartedly.

The US should have gone in front in the 17th minute when Chicago Fire youngster Josh Wolff twisted and turned and made his own space in the box. With all the hard work done he hit his shot straight at the Chilean keeper.

The US continued to press forward with Wolff always dangerous and Ben Olsen and Jeff Agoos causing problems for Chile everytime they came forward.

Chile was content to hit on the break and buoyed by the very vocal South American crowd they began to assert themselves on the game more as it went on.

But even still the USA should have gone ahead just a minute into the second half when Conor Casey blasted on the turn from outside the box to force a brilliant save out of Chile keeper Nelson Tapia.

Chile celebrate with their fans after winning a medal.

Chile's Rodrigo Nunez tries to get between Americans Jeff Agoos (4) and Pete Vagenas (10).

The Americans continued to press ahead and were severly exposing Chile down their left side, Agoos, Wolff, Casey, John O'Brien and Frankie Hejduk all looking dangerous.

In the 66th minute US skipper Brian Dunseth crashed the ball against the crossbar from the edge of the area after latching onto a corner on the half-volley.

But the introduction of Chile's Sebastian Gonzalez provided some spark in the Chile attack five minutes earlier and it was Gonzalez whose cross provided Zamorano his first real strike at goal in the 67th minute — a spectacular volley that went straight into the arms of US keeper Brad Freidel.

Gonzalez did the damage. Just a minute later and on the pitch for only seven minutes he coaxed US defender Danny Califf into an unnecessary challenge when the ball looked to be running out of play.

A penalty to Chile, captain Zamorano making no mistake.

With time running out for the Americans, coach Charles replaced defender Califf with striker Landon Donovan in the hope of finding an equaliser.

The move backfired, only exposing the Americans further at the back and when Claudio Maldonado and Rodrigo Nunez combined ouside the box to tee up Zamorano, the master striker was not about to miss his chance thumping the ball past Freidel to give the Chileans the bronze medal.

Understandably, Chile coach Nelson Acosta was very pleased:

"It was extremely important for us to have won a medal especially considering how well we played all our matches.

"Chile is not used to high placings on the world stage, particularly in relation to soccer which is our national sport. Hopefully now we can go on and build on this wonderful performance."

US coach Clive Charles although a loser on the night was proud of his chargers:

"We played some of our best football of the tournament tonight.

"I am very proud of this team," he ended.

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Ivan Zamorano: Double killer blow.

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Tuesday, 10 October, 2000:
U/13 & U/14: 6.00pm start

Thursday, 12 October, 2000:
U/15 & U/17: 6.00pm start

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Gold Medal

INDOMITABLE LIONS ROAR

Golden day for African heroes as Spanish dream ends in silver

Spain	2
Cameroon	2

Cameroon won 5-3 on penalties

By Vince Battiato at Stadium Australia

After a great tournament and a fantastic match to decide the Womens gold medal, no-one could have dreamt up the script better for the final statement in Olympic football for Sydney 2000.

The game could have been completely out of Cameroon's reach after only five minutes after they endured the worst possible start to any game, let alone an Olympic final.

The dream is over: Spain realise they are not going home with gold.

Spanish striker Jose Mari was fouled outside the box after 35 seconds and midfielder Xavi curled his free-kick into the bottom left-hand corner after just 75 seconds.

The Africans probably hadn't recovered from that set-back when Jose Mari again was fouled by Aaron Nguimbat but this time inside the area. Only four minutes had been played. Cameroon had barely touched the ball.

Angulo stepped up, but 16-year-old Cameroon goal-keeping sensation Carlos Kameni dived to his right to save the spot-kick much to the delight of the underdog supporting Australian crowd of over 98,000.

Remarkably, Kameni's first two touches of the ball had been firstly to pick it out of the net and secondly, saving a penalty.

To Cameroon's credit, a game that looked like it might become a walkover, became anything but.

Cameroon went on all out attack searching for an equaliser.

Patrick Mboma could have equalised in the 17th minute when he leaped highest to meet a Serge Branco cross. Mboma, who was slightly off his game in the first half, skimmed his header wide of the post.

A game full of incident saw Spain have to change their captain in the 26th minute. After a heavy clash skipper Toni Velamazan was stretchered off with a serious shoulder injury replaced by Gabri, the captain's armband reverting to penalty-misser Angulo — perhaps a confidence boost from the coach.

It didn't work as Angulo, who had a poor game by his standards, was replaced mid-way through the second half, the captain's armband changing to a third player. This time Albelda.

Cameroon were threatening to break the Spanish defensive line with Mboma and Spanish based Samuel Eto'o Fils looking dangerous and Branco heavily involved.

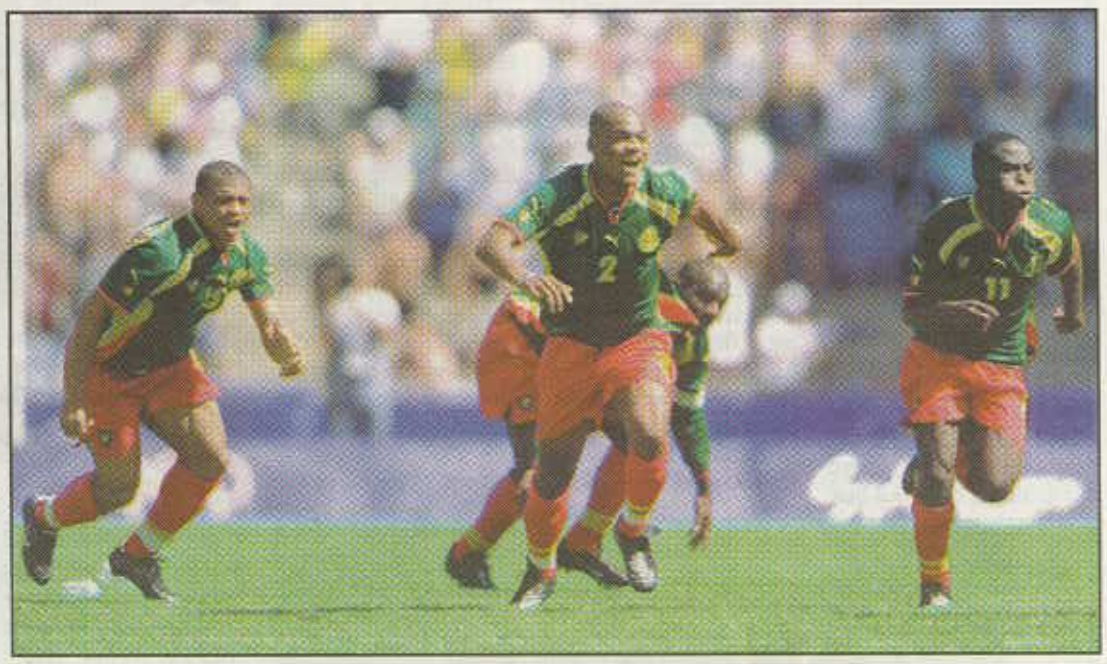
It wasn't until the 30th minute that Spain had another strike on goal, with Xavi setting up Gabri who blasted his shot over the bar.

Cameroon were made to pay heavily for their missed opportunities when Spain increased their lead in injury time.

LaCruz knocked a defensive header back into the fray only to catch the entire Cameroon defence napping. Gabri skipped away and slotted the ball past Kameni.

Cameroon with all the running bar the opening minutes went into the break staring silver in the face.

Cameroon came out fighting in the second half and could have gone level after just 30 seconds when Branco forced a superb save out of Keeper Aranzubia.



Cameroon celebrate their penalty shoot-out victory against Spain.

But the African's luck was about to change remarkably.

Mboma, who had started the second half brightly sped down the right flank in the 53rd minute and whipped in a cross. The ball deflected off the upper chest of a back-tracking Amaya, and with the keeper committed for the cross, the ball snuck in on the near post. It was a stroke of luck that would begin an African onslaught on Spain.

The crowd was wooing the Africans, wanting that all important equaliser and they didn't have to wait long.

Five minutes later skipper Gerami Njitap Fotso released Mboma down the right again who provided the perfect cross for Eto'o to control and slot past Aranzubia.

Spain had surrendered a 2-0 lead and the Africans were on a roll. Things got worse for Spain when scorer Gabri was sent off with 20 minutes to go after stumbling before make a somewhat crude challenge on Nicolas Alnoudji.

And Eto'o should have put Cameroon in front two minutes later when after good work by Lauren he missed his opportunity from 10 yards.

The perfect start: Spain celebrate Xavi's goal after just 75 seconds.

With five minutes to go, Spanish defender Puyol made the most timely tackle of the match so far. After Eto'o and Mboma had combined, Puyol's tackle on Mboma saved a certain goal.

From the resulting corner, Eto'o had the ball in the net only to be correctly adjudged to have handled the ball.

One minute into injury time at the end of the game, things got even worse for Spain when Jose Mari was sent off for a second yellow card for diving in the box looking for a penalty.

Spain were down to nine-men for extra-time and Jose Mari could consider himself unlucky after replays showed his first yellow was unwarranted.

It seemed the Africans could not lose from here, but they showed their tactical naivety by not going wide and trying to expose a reduced side's defence.

To Spain's credit they defended as their lives depended on it. Their goal being peppered by the Cameroon onslaught they held firm dispensing every Cameroon raid in a defensive display that marked the courage the Olympic spirit is meant to instil.

Every Spanish player gave everything to the cause with Puyol a standout.

You have to feel a bit sorry for the Spanish boys and particularly Amaya, whose penalty miss gave the Africans a 5-3 victory in the shoot-out.

They typified the courage that is all too prevalent in the Olympic games. It was a pity someone had to get the Silver after a golden end to a fantastic match.

Spanish keeper goes down low to stop another Cameroon raid.

The Medals

Norway upset World Champs

USA	2
Norway	3

(Golden goal)

By Vince Battiato at the SFS

Unfashionable Norway staged a remarkable fightback to send World champs the USA home with a silver medal.

The US had started fantastically well taking the lead after only five minutes.

Superstar Mia Hamm did well to ride a tackle and hit the byline. She cut the ball back to find Tiffeny Milbrett who slotted home first-time from six yards. USA one up and the game threatened to turn into a rout.

Norway couldn't get out of their half and as well as Hamm and Milbrett tearing the Norwegian defence apart, captain Julie Foudy was completely running the show in midfield.

But the US were not taking the many chances they were creating. Kristine Lilly put a free header over the bar in the 18th minute and a Foudy header hit the crossbar in the 29th.

It was the impetus Norway needed.

A corner taken by Hege Riise in the 44th minute produced what turned out to be the beginning of a great fightback.

Defender Gro Espeseth came storming into the box to thunder her header past Siri Mullinix in the US goal.

Level at the break the Norwegians were back in it and the game opened up in the second half much to do with the US failing to continue to play their own game and resorting to a more Norwegian style long-ball game.

Even so they should have been ahead right on the hour when a Hamm flick fell to Lilly whose thunderous shot was save by the Norwegian keeper. But the rebound fell to Lilly whose second shot was equally as effective — this time a desperate diving header by Norway captain Goeril Kringin on the line denied Lilly a goal.

Norway's belief in themselves seemed to lift and two more fingertip saves by Bente Nordby in their goal by Hamm in the 71st minute and Lilly again three minutes later must have had the US team thinking this may just not be their night.

Those fears would have haunted them again four minutes later when a hopeful cross by Marianne Pettersen found the head of tall striker Ragnhild Gulbrandsen. She got between defender Joy Fawcett and keeper Mullinix, her header bouncing into an unguarded net.

The US pushed forward now in search of an equaliser which wouldn't come. In the 89th minute Milbrett had found herself in the box but a timely intervention by Kringin again seemed to secure the gold for Norway.

But as the unthinkable had happened to the US it was about to happen to Norway.

Hamm found herself on the right with seconds remaining. She got past a defender and whisked a cross into the box where flying in Milbrett, like Gulbrandsen earlier got her header in between two defenders to send the crowd into raptures and the match into extra time.

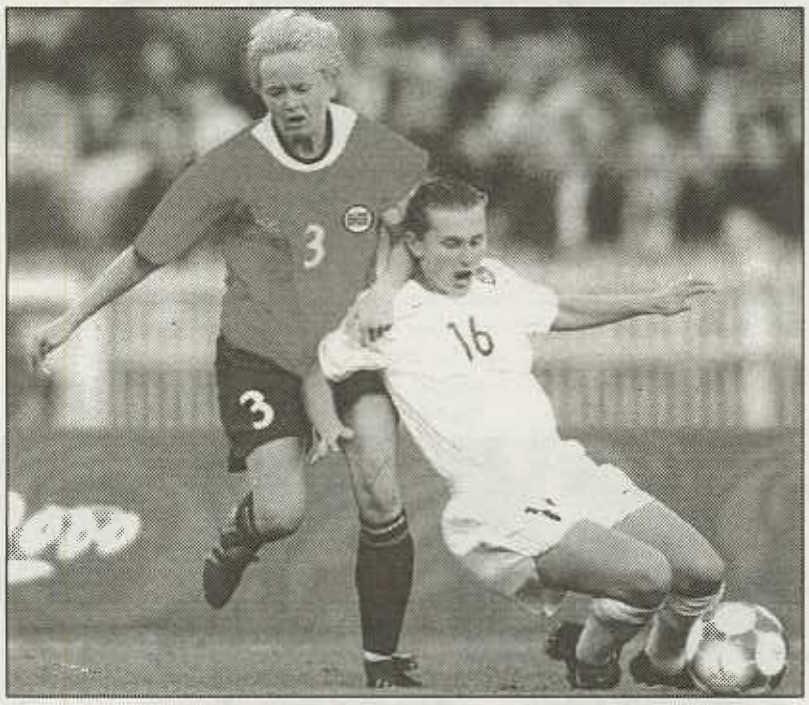
But Norway were to have the last laugh in the 102nd minute. Substitute Dagny Mellgren went up for a header after a floating ball in, it bounced off defender Fawcett and onto the arm of Mellgren who was still airborne. She landed, controlled and slotted past Mullinix, the referee undeterred that the handball was non-intentional.

To their credit there were no complaints from the Americans and the unfancied Norwegians fulfilled their dream of winning gold.

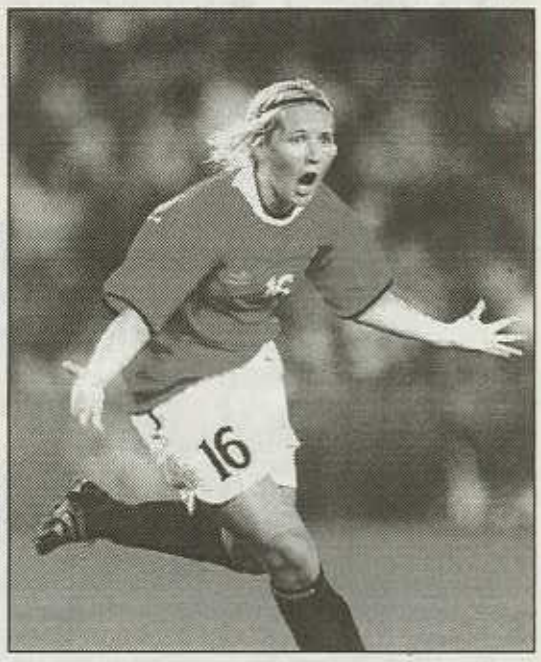
US coach April Heinrichs was still happy despite the loss:

"Our medal is silver but tonight our game was golden."

Norway are the Champions.



Norwegian captain Goeril Kringen tangles with Tiffeny Milbrett.



Striker Ragnhild Gulbrandsen celebrates putting Norway 2-1 up.

Great finishing gives Germany the Bronze

Germany	2
Brazil	0

By Vince Battiato at the SFS

Two class finishes in the second half sent the Germans home with a medal and ended Brazil's nightmare at the Sydney 2000 games, neither the mens or womens teams claiming a medal.

Brazil made all the early running and dominated most of the first half but were unable to convert any of their chances.

Testament to the Brazilian dominance it took 35 minutes for Germany to get their first strike on goal from open play, and that was a rasping shot from 30 yards by Maren Meinert which shaved the crossbar.

The second half saw the Germans re-group in order to put together one solid half in the hope of claiming Bronze.

And it worked. The Germans going ahead in the 64th minute.

Awarded a free kick on the edge of the area, Renate Lingor stepped up to curl the ball around the wall and into the top left-hand corner.

In front, Germany eased off the pedal and Brazil should have been level just two minutes later when Roseli turned on the edge of the box and fired on goal. What probably deserved a goal turned into a fine save by the German custodian.

With the game opening up the chances began to flow. Germany should have wrapped it up but missed two clear opportunities within a minute.

First, Inga Grings was denied by Brazilian keeper Andreia in the 69th minute and then Brigit Prinz, with only keeper to beat, miss-hit her shot.

But the miss of the match belonged to Brazil striker Pretinha in the 75th minute.

Around the German keeper and with the net at her mercy from eight yards, she skewed her shot giving two German defenders the time to clear.

It proved costly as Germany sealed the Bronze medal four minutes later when Prinz controlled a long ball from the left in the box. She took two touches goalward and crashed the ball past the advancing Andreia.

There was even time for one more miss by Grings, but 2-0 was enough to secure the Bronze medal.

Germany's Brigit Prinz makes it 2-0 late in the game.

Semi-Finals

Spain Clinch Shot at Gold

Spanish striking trio tear apart US

SPAIN	3
USA	1

By Vince Battiato at the SFS

In a clinical display of tactical superiority and deft finishing, Spain booked their place in the gold medal match with each of their three strikers getting on the scoresheet.

On a slippery SFS surface the 1992 champions went out looking for the win and it was Milan striker Jose Mari who broke down the right after 16 minutes. He picked out Tamudo on the left who came sliding through to finish.

Although American Josh Wolff's pace was causing problems for the Spanish defence it was Spain who asserted themselves on the match going two up after 25 minutes.

This time it was Amaya's ball which landed at the feet of Jose Mari, whose neat flick fell perfectly for Angulo to slide underneath the advancing Brad Freidel.

Spain threatened to run away with the game until US coach Clive Charles made an interesting double substitution six minutes before the break.

Landon Donovan and Sasha Victorine replaced Ramiro Corrales and the limping Chris Albright.

The move worked, the substitution breaking the Spanish rhythm when the USA was awarded a penalty just two minutes later.

Pete Vagenas held his nerve and the US were back in it.

But the second half panned out much like the first and Spain should have killed off the game in the 67th minute when Tamudo released Jose Mari in the box. Unfortunately for him he skewed his shot in the slippery conditions.

Tamudo and Man of the match Jose Mari were to have the last say though.

Tamudo, who had tormented the US defence all night, got away on the left before cutting inside and firing at Freidel, who could only parry the stinging effort.

Jose Mari followed up and finally got on the scoresheet three minutes from time with a difficult finish that the class striker made look easy.

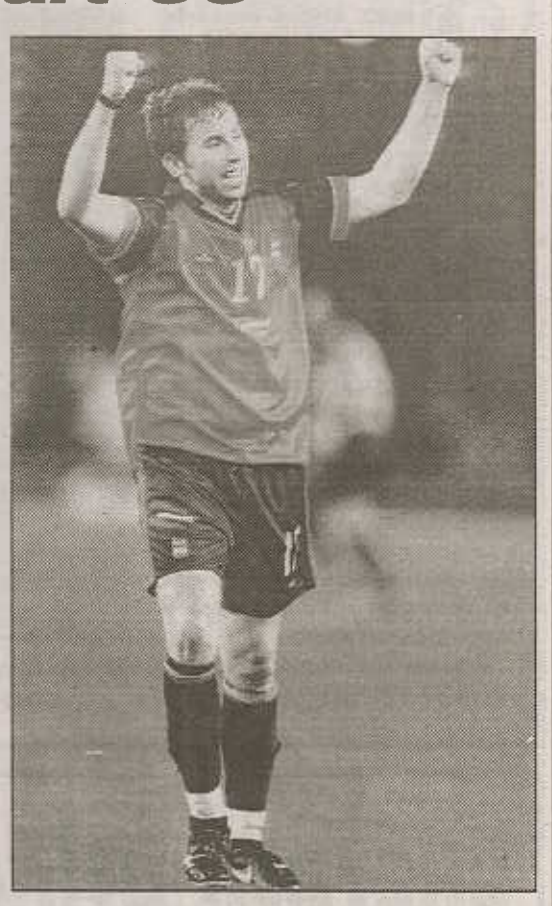
But always the team player he put the win into perspective:

"We worked hard for victory but the most important thing is that we got the result."

Goalscorer Tamudo was a little less diplomatic:

"We have at least a silver medal but we want the gold."

Spain captain Toni Velamazan tussles with US defender Jeff Agoos.



We've done it: Spanish striker Tamudo celebrates victory.

Stunning Africans reach final

Devastating last six minutes sees Cameroon through

Chile	1
Cameroon	2

By Bert van Bedaf at the MCG

Australia's queen of the track, Cathy Freeman lit the Olympic cauldron, but a rain-sodden Melbourne and the indomitable Lions doused the Chilean spirit as Cameroon came from behind to reach the Olympic final after beating Chile 2-1 last Tuesday night in front of 64,338 spectators.

The Chilean band played on in the rain at the packed MCG. Bare-bellied dancing girls gyrated in the wet. The colourful troupe in national costumes also braved the damp conditions and thousands of Chilean fans had congregated to urge their stars to victory.

Chile had a gold medal chance within its grasp, when an own goal put them ahead in the 78th minute. But a stunning equaliser in the 84th minute and a heart-stopping penalty with seconds left to full time, catapulted Cameroon in sight of gold.

Despite protests by Chile coach Nelson Acosta, the South Americans had emerged as favourites to win gold after Brazil and Italy nose-dived out of the tournament.

After finishing at the top of Group B, ahead of Spain, Korea and Morocco, the Chileans disposed of title defender Nigeria in emphatic fashion, beating the Africans 4-1 in the quarter-finals.

Now they found themselves up against another powerful African nation, the indomitable Lions of Cameroon, who proved their ability in the group stage, finishing runner-up to USA, ahead of Kuwait and the Czech Republic.

They confirmed their reputation as giant killers by knocking out Brazil with nine men and a golden goal in the 113th minute.

But their victory came at a heavy cost. Suspension robbed Cameroon of captain and Real Madrid player Geremi Njitap Fotso as well as defender Aaron Nguimbat, both red-carded against Brazil.

Cameroon coach Jean-Paul Akono had provided Chile with additional motivation, when he declared Chile played "defensive football", despite the fact the medal favourite had scored 11 goals so far.

"They play defensive football," Akono declared. "They don't play positive football. They might be top scorers in the tournament but it's a paradox. The way they play is not spectacular for the crowds," he said rather controversially, considering the Chileans has endeared themselves to record Melbourne crowds.

But Akono's assertions seemed to be correct, the way Chile appeared content to get behind the Cameroon defence on the counter. The South Americans beat the offside trap a couple of times in the first half and forced the Cameroon defence to scramble back and clear.

Free on the right, Zamorano found 16-year-old Cameroon 'keeper Carlos Kameni in his path after four minutes. Twenty minutes later the young star also blocked a shot by Reinaldo Navia for a corner after Tello had got to the goal line on the left and crossed it into the box.

Kameni again denied Zamorano with a brilliant save in the 58th minute.

The Inter striker forced his way through the Cameroon defence, but Kameni spread himself well and blocked the shot before saving it at the second instant.

Cameroon rebounded with a blistering attack after 64 minutes, but Mboma and Eto'o had their shots saved by Tapia.

Chile should have scored from two good chances in the 66th and 69th minutes, but Cristian Alvarez shot over the bar and after having crossed three minutes later Claudio Maldonado headed over the bar.

Chile increased the pressure but Cameroon managed to scramble clear.

Kameni performed a minor miracle in the 77th minute when three Chileans were on side and free on goal. Maldonado took the shot but Kameni saved, much to the frustration of Zamorano.

Chile finally broke the deadlock in the 78th minute. Substitute Sebastian Gonzalez put in the shot. Kameno parried, but the ball bounced off the knee of the unfortunate Nicolas Alnoudji and into the net. It looked curtains for the Lions, but they levelled six minutes later.

Lauren took the corner, which was half-cleared. Patrick Mboma got to the ball and found the net through a forest of Chilean legs.

Extra time and a possible golden goal loomed. But Mboma changed all that. When he was brought down inside the area by Contreras, French referee Stephane Bre pointed to the spot and Lauren blasted home the winner with seconds left in the match.

"This was a great match between two great teams. It was an open game with a lot of individual play. It was a great spectacle, but there has to be a winner and it happened to be Cameroon," a jubilant Akono said.

"Our attacking style was the key aspect. Chile scored an accidental goal, but it made our players even more determined. A gold medal was our objective. Nigeria paved the way and Cameroon is now moving towards it," a confident Akono said.

"The game was lost by us, because of the way we played. Not being in the final is our own fault. But we have to live with it," a disappointed Acosta said.

Chile's Reinaldo Navia tries to get away from Modeste Mbami and Serge Branco.

Cameroon enjoy another stunning win.

AUSSIES AROUND THE GLOBE

With Arvind Hickman ***Did you know that there are over 100 Australian soccer players plying their trade in many of the top leagues around the world? Every year new names emerge on the world stage, painting the picture of green and gold into a portrait of global recognition Aussie Around The Globe is our weekly look at the exploits of these players and their performance.***

'Aussies Around the Globe' returns this week after a break for the Oympics.

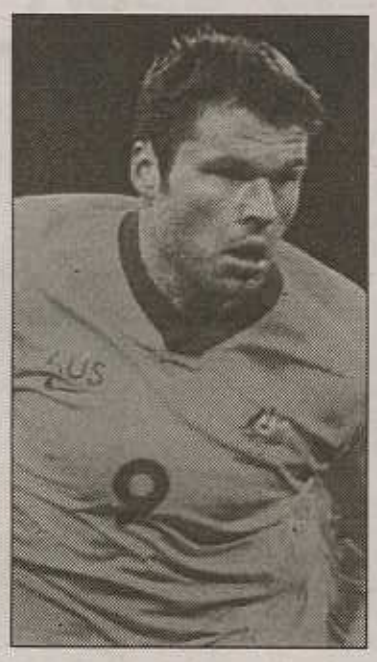
It is interesting to note that a large number of our contigent in Italy, Holland and the Premier League have been out of action in recent times due to injuries, national team commitments and poor form.

Heading the list in the Premier League are Paul Okon (broken foot), Harry Kewell (Achillies), Mark Bosnich (out of favour), Mark Schwarzer (injured) , and Hayden Foxe (work permit).

Brett Emerton was beginning to break into the first team at Feyenoord before playing in the Olympics while Stephen Laybutt and Jason Culina were also missing from Holland for the same reason.

Italian based players Vince Grella and Marco Bresciano were also in Sydney to cap off what has been a quiet couple of weeks for Aussies abroad.

However, there were a few Aussies that did make their presence felt.



Player of the week Mark Viduka: Finally broke the duck.

England: At least three Premier League clubs have shown an interest in signing Olyroo defender Simon Colosimo. Sunderland, Middelsbrough and West Ham are all looking to sign Colosimo but any move will be conditional on a work permit.

Premier League: Mark Viduka has finally broken his duck for Leeds United.

Viduka scored his first goal for the Yorkshire club against Besiktas, a 6-0 drubbing in the Champions League.

He then continued this form in the Premier League game against Tottenham, scoring a double to clinch a dramatic 4-3 victory. Viduka admits his first goal for the club was a huge relief and promises many more.

"One day you can be down in the dumps and the next you're on top of the world. That's the beauty of this game," he said.

John Aloisi scored the first goal for Coventry as the Sky Blues drew 2-2 with Charlton. It is Aloisi's first goal of the season.

Danny Tiatto started in Man City's game against Newcastle.

Germany: Paul Agostino was at it again last week scoring two goals in a 3-1 victory for 1860 Munich against Freiburg. Agostino is now the equal top scorer in Germany with six goals. Teammate Ned Zelic is also enjoying first team football.

Transfer Market: Glenn Hoddle has signed Perth youngster Adrian Caceres, who impressed during his trial with Southampton.

Caceres played for the club reserve side last week and scored in 4-2 win against Ipswich.

Player of the Week: It has certainly been a long while coming, but Mark Viduka's first goal for Leeds against Besiktas, and double last weekend was well worth the wait.

The 'V-bomber' has silenced many critics with his fine display and promises more to come. We certainly hope so.

Paul Agostino: Equal topscorer in Germany.

Eastern Pride Gear up for Season

Jeff Hopkins: Tough season ahead.

By Bert van Bedaf

The Eastern Pride unveiled their new strip last week and announced two new sponsors as well as a member incentive.

The Gippsland-based club will wear a light blue strip with white sides, separated by black stripes.

The club also announced Pura Milk and trucking company Iveco had become major sponsors and another long-time sponsor, Federation Health would offer members a rebate on health cover.

Pride chief executive, Peter Quirk has introduced major changes at the club, giving it a new name and a new strip for the NSL season, starting in less than a fortnight.

"But we needed more than a name change. We also needed to create a new atmosphere at the club and a new sense of direction. Hopefully, the players can express it on the pitch as well," Quirk said.

So far, the Pride has struggled on the park and remained without a win in the Tynan-Eyre Cup and it appears a tough season lies ahead for coach Jeff Hopkins and his players.

Memorial Match at Knights

By Bert van Bedaf

The Melbourne Knights will meet Carlton in the third annual Laurie Schwab Memorial match as part of a three-match blockbuster at Knights stadium on Sunday.

The Knights youth team will play a Victorian country select side at 2pm and the Knights Old Boys will do battle with South Melbourne's Legends team at 4pm.

Billy Vojtek, one of the Knights' greatest players, is assembling a terrific team set to include John Gardiner, Mark Talajic, Tommy Cumming, Ken Murphy and Ivan Ivanovic.

Former Knights marketing manager and South Melbourne administrator Barry Horsfall is gathering the country squad, comprising players from Victoria's north-east region. Horsfall is presently coach of country club Combram Tigers.

Vlado Vanis: Knights coach.

The youth match has been organised as part of a major push by the Knights to broaden its supporter base and raise its profile across country Victoria.

The memorial match will kick off at 6pm. It is played in honour of the late Laurie Schwab, who was a well-known Melbourne soccer journalist with The Age newspaper, until his untimely death in June 1997, aged 50.

Gate proceeds will go to the Laurie Schwab Foundation, which aims to assist young people in pursuing higher achievement in soccer and in soccer journalism through individual scholarships and financial support for suitable projects.

The Knights gates will be open from noon onwards for a family day for members and supporters to meet Knights staff and players and enjoy a sausage sizzle.

"This is a value-for-money opportunity for families to have a great day out. It is part of our efforts to throw open the club doors to new supporters and knit it closer to the western suburbs community," general manager Rob Hrzic said.

Peter Ollerton becomes a Berger

By Bert van Bedaf

Victorian Premier League coach of the year, Peter Ollerton has joined Heidelberg United to take on one of the most challenging jobs in the league next year.

A striker in Australia's 1974 World Cup team and a former Preston player in the national league as well as Preston coach in the VPL, Ollerton took East Altona to third place on the VPL ladder last season. He claimed a VPL title with Preston in 1994.

Heidelberg, a troubled club ever since it was ousted from the NSL five years ago, narrowly escaped relegation to the State League, finishing ninth last season.

Meanwhile, Altona East midfielder Terry Antoniadis won the club's best-and-fairest award. He polled 22 votes, two votes ahead of attacking midfielder Paul Donnelly.

Hunter Region football saved by soccer fan Constantine

RESCUED

By Greg Danvers

Soccer at the top level in the Hunter region was saved this week when Con Constantine stepped in andsecured the Northern NSW NSL licence for the upcoming season.

Fortunately for the former Breakers players, who have stuck together through thick and thin, now have ateam to play for out of Newcastle.

Northern NSW Soccer Federation facilitated the Con Constantine rescue bid and to Soccer Australiaíscredit they accepted and approved last Thursday Newcastle Soccer Pty Ltd to the fold for the 2000-2001NSL.

But what a week it was, Lee Sterrey committing himself to the Breakers last Monday and then resigning on Friday to take up the senior coaching role at the new entity.

A players meeting was held late on Monday night with the federation and they committed themselves to the rescue package.

The next day the federation with legal adviser Martin Trisley and top-line journalist and adviser Neil Jameson in tow along with Newcastle Lord Mayor John Tate met with David Woolley (SA CEO) and Stefan Kamasz (NSL general manager) to thrash out the details.

Then all had to endure two days of waiting for a second meeting this time with Con Constantine, a Sydney businessman with interests in Newcastle, at the table.

Around 4.30pm on Thursday afternoon David Woolley emerged from the meeting to say: ìWe are very pleased to announce that Newcastle will be represented in the upcoming NSL season.

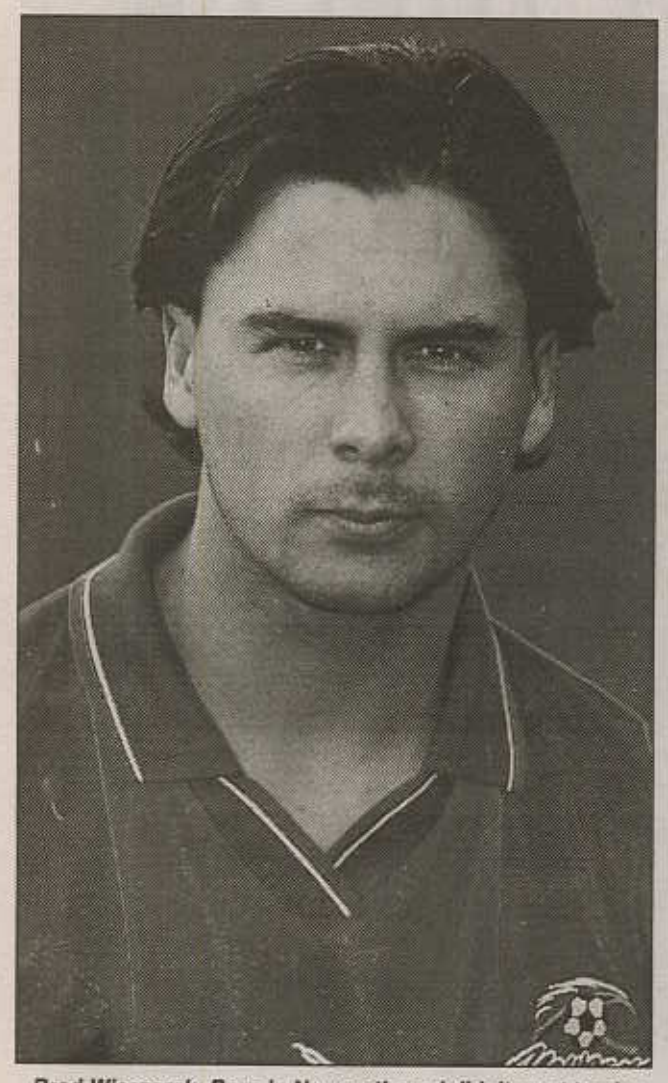
"We would like to thank all those that have shown a great deal of patience, tolerance and support not least of which the players.

"It always been a matter of ensuring a safety net for the players and player payments.

"I think Mr Constantine should be thanked for jumping into the breach and ensuring Newcastle is duly represented and it shows a great deal of vision and courage.

"And it vindicates the faith we have in Football in Newcastle and the Hunter region."

Lee Sterrey: A blow to preparations.



Brad Wieczorek: Born in Newcastle and didn't want to play for anyone else.

The players through the Professional Football Association took a stance a few weeks back, that may have been a gamble, to force the issue over player payments and entitlements from the previous owner and walked en-masse from the Breakers hoping to force Soccer Australiaís hand.

"We thought that that would be the position but there were no guarantees," Todd McManus said of the decision to quite the Breakers.

"It would have been very disappointing if we had have lost the team, not only for ourselves but the young guys from the area as well."

For the players it was a matter of sticking together, although their decisions were individual they became collective, to play in Newcastle at the top level and have now ensured that the youngsters of this great nursery have a career path to the top.

"I was born in Newcastle and I didn't want to play for any other team but Newcastle," Left wingback Brad Wieczorek, 22, said from the Ray Baartz Sports Centre yesterday.

"This is great what's happened now and has given all of us another chance to play in the national league.

"I'm sure Newcastle as a town are grateful to Con Constantine and I know the players are very grateful.

"Now we are just really keen to get on with the season."

On October 14 when Newcastle and Eastern Pride kick-off in round one at Morwell the players will feel vindicated for their actions but more importantly relieved.

They will be a bit off the pace as their pre-season has been less than satisfactory in terms of match fitness.

"We certainly have had a savage blow to our preparations," Newcastle coach Lee Sterrey said.

"It has cost us a trip to Perth for two games and one against Northern Spirit.

"The boys have slipped a bit in their fitness but we've got two weeks to pick that up."

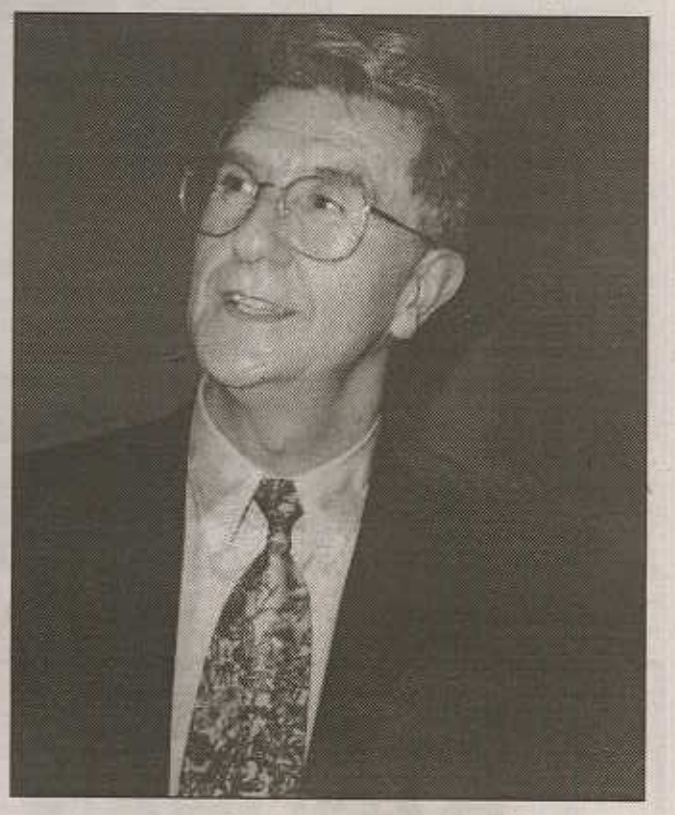
The team had their first training session at their new home Marathon Stadium, home ground of the Newcastle Knights and the venue where KB United played in the 80s then known as the International Sports Centre, last Friday night and are quite happy with the venue.

"The location of the ground will be a plus for us in drawing crowds," Mark Wilson said of Marathon Stadium.

"We will have to adapt to the different surface at Marathon but that's not a major concern.

"Whoever we play has that problem as well.

"The feeling in the squad from the other night was good."



David Woolley: Pleasing announcement.

WAKE UP CALL

The Rowdies held a wake on Sunday for the Breakers but should be reminded that their heritage stems back to the ISC and if they are true supporters will move to the new home for the Newcastle NSL side and support the players.

"I think our next step is to fill stadiums as well as make the finals," coach Sterrey said.

"We have got to perform well and bring more people to the game.

"We have the same group of players and coaching staff that have represented this town with a lot of passion and pride.

"We are now under a different name at a different venue and itís not our fault.

"We have put Newcastle back in a position where theyíre very well respected in Soccer in this country and whether it's at Breakers Stadium or Marathon Stadium who cares as long as there's a packed stadium."

Soccer Australia CEO David Woolley, after copping bucket loads of flack from all quarters regarding their handling of the Breakers saga, has called on the people of the Hunter to support the team.

"It is now up to the people of the region to get behind this team and pack in 20 000 here for the first game," Woolley said at Marathon Stadium last week.

"They have given us plenty now it's time to show their support."

NEWCASTLE SENIOR SQUAD
(Probable)

John	BUONAVOGLIA	Vasko	TRPCEVSKI
Bob	CATLIN	Peter	TSEKENIS
Travis	DODD	Paul	WHEELER
Joshua	FERGUSON	Brad	WIECZOREK
Andy	HARPER	Mark	WILSON
Peter	JUCHNIEWICH		
James	KEMP	**COACHING STAFF**	
Esala	MASI	Lee	STERREY
Daniel	McBREEN	David	LOWE
Todd	McMANUS	Bobby	NAMOUV
Andy	ROBERTS	Alex	TARAGROULIAS
Damian	SMITH	Brett	COWBURN
Glenn	SPROD		
Antony	SURJAN	**MANAGER**	
Brad	SWANCOTT	Michael	WAGSTAFF.

GWYNNE OUT FOR THE SEASON

By Glenn Davis

Brisbane Strikers are unlikely to delve into the transfer market to replace experienced defender Glenn Gwynne who is likely to miss most of the upcoming national league season with a serious knee injury.

Gwynne, 28, a veteran of 202 national league games, recently underwent a knee reconstruction which is expected to rule him out for up to eight months.

Strikers coach John Kosmina said the injury was a major disappointment but was confident of countering the loss from within his current squad.

Strikers secretary Ray Evans also was shattered by Gwynne's injury but confirmed the club would rely on his current crop of talented youngsters to replace the veteran defender.

"It's very disappointing but it's most unlikely we'll be looking to buy a replacement," Evans said.

"We've got a good bunch of youngsters coming through and this will be their opportunity."

Gwynne is expected to be sidelined for between six and eight months, but Kosmina is hopeful of a shorter period if the former far north Queensland junior applies himself to physio.

Strikers youngsters Wayne Srhoj and Jade North are back with the club after trialling with clubs in Italy and France.

North has been back training with the Strikers for two weeks while Srhoj arrived back last week after rejecting an offer to play for Paris St. Germain in the French first division.

Kosmina has been happy with the Strikers' pre-season form which included a 3-0 loss to Brazil's Olympic side.

Kosmina has again set the Strikers a goal of finishing in the Top Six, a position they only narrowly missed out on last season.

The Strikers finished ninth last season after leading the competition for the first nine rounds.

"We had the third best defensive record in the league last year," Kosmina said.

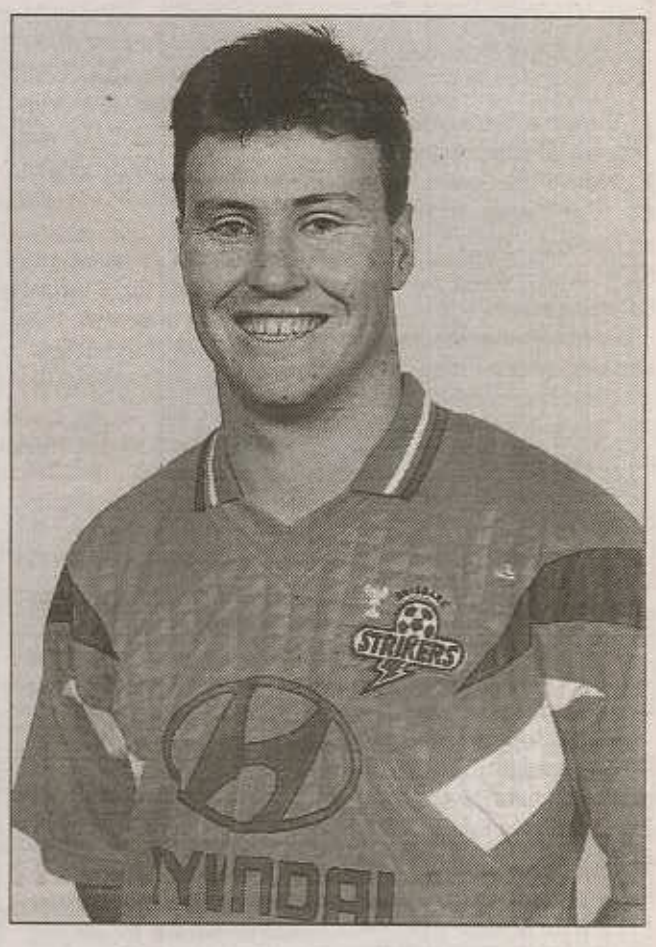
"It's a shocking blow to lose Gywnnie but we need to score goals this season and that's what we're working on now, trying to find the right combination."

Meanwhile Kosmina has been pleased with goalkeeper Daniel Duke who starred for the Strikers in their pre-season trial loss to Brazil at Carrara on the Gold Coast.

Duke played several seasons for Brisbane City in the local premier league, before signing for the Strikers and playing last season on loan in the national league with Auckland Kingz.

Duke has become the Strikers' number one keeper replacing long serving custodian Clint Bolton who became a Socceroo with the Strikers before joining Sydney Olympic this season.

Glenn Gwynne: Serious injury.



Daniel Duke: Excellent pre-season so far.

PETERSEN GRABS FIRST TROPHY

By Bert van Bedaf

Mickey Petersen and his players have been training lakeside on the grass of Albert Park like any ordinary outfit, while Olympic contestants tasted the luxury of Bob Jane stadium.

You could see them any old Tuesday afternoon kicking a ball across from the Grand Prix sheds like young kids having an after-school game with coats and bags as goals posts.

But the casual scene has proved deceptive. South Melbourne is no ordinary side. They are working towards becoming quite special this season - and they are no school kids either.

Most of them are experienced campaigners, who have seen a championship or two or have won a trophy here or there overseas. Some are heading into the 2000/2001 NSL season nudging towards 30.

Rivals are quickly spreading the word South Melbourne is like a "dad's army" and they expect the former champions to fall apart halfway through the season.

But those cheeky critics might find themselves with egg on their faces.

South's "old" boys look pretty slick and sharp, and with a blend of youth thrown in, they are the in-form side.

They whipped the opposition during the Tynan-Eyre Cup, beating the Melbourne Knights 3-1 in the final and showing experience counts for almost everything.

Petersen was obviously pleased with the cup win and how his team is shaping up.

"I'm more interested in the mechanics of the team (than the trophy) and how we played, which I was reasonably pleased with," Petersen said.

"But credit to the Knights. They came out in the second half and gave us a bit of a scare. I think they'll do well this season with the young boys.

We conceded a silly goal and hopefully we'll learn from our mistakes," he said.

But overall, Petersen agreed his side had shown excellent pre-season form with the experience it possessed. "It's the experience over 90 minutes that holds us in good stead, because come the second half there's more gaps. The experienced players pick it up a bit better than the young boys.

"I'm happy with the way things are going. But I'm also happy we've got a good young player in Patrick Kisnorbo. He's playing well with a lot of confidence. We're excited having him as well," Petersen said.

His sights are now set on the first NSL match against Adelaide City Force.

"That's when the points are up for grabs. We'll just keep working. What you did last week doesn't really count. We've just got to keep doing it and becoming a bigger and better unit than the week before," he said.

The Knights came down with a thud, losing 3-1 to South after being undefeated in the previous cup rounds. But coach Vlado Vanis knows his young team can only improve with experience and the Sunshine outfit will be a top six chance.

Carlton looked decidedly unhappy. The uncertainty regarding the future of the club must be affecting morale. Rumours persist that Carlton owner Peter Jess might cut his losses once Simon Colosimo and Archie Thompson have been sold to overseas club and close down the club. Some believe Carlton may not see out the season.

Eastern Pride will be worried. Without a win in the Tynan-Eyre Cup, the Pride hasn't shown much improvement on last season.

Mickey Petersen: Brilliant start to coaching reigns at South.

Whose to Blame

Dear Sir,

No one has stood up and said, except perhaps Robbie Slater and Les Murray, that Australian soccer has failed miserably at the Sydney Olympics, and that only Raul Blanco and his bosses at Soccer Australia can stand up and accept responsibility for it.

It wasn't the one error by Hayden Foxe against Italy, who otherwise gave a superlative performance, or the naive back pass by Simon Colosimo against Nigeria, who along with Foxe, Emerton and Kewell, represent some of the best attacking young players anywhere in the world. It was the inability of Blanco and his merry men to create a positive team atmosphere that cost us a title.

That the Australian Olympic Football team was segregated from the rest of the Australian Olympic squad, dutifully represents the type of racism that exists within the Australian nation. Imagine if SOCOG and the AOC had organised for the Australian Olympic Swimming team to bunk in with the Chinese athletes. What type of a scandal would that have caused? Why then did the football teams have to sleep with the athletes of another country? This highlights the general attitude of the Australian elite who think "they're just a bunch of wogs anyway!"

The ignorance of the public is phenomenal, for without a great football team, what chance does Australia have of any international sporting credibility? Why decry that you are a world champion of cricket or rugby union, when that's as good as being the best at baseball or gridiron. And what about Aussie rules, you can preach that until you are blue in the face, but even then you'll run out of breath.

Brett Emerton: Lack of discipline.

The inability of Blanco to muster up a sure fire home performance, is a symptom of the genuine lack of leadership from people at the helm of Australian soccer, who are at a void to know where inspiration can be found, and how the game's Australian multicultural tradition can best be manifested. We don't have to look to others for encouragement and support, when it is they who must come to us, if they desire the cultural sense of this world.

Australian soccer would have stood a good chance, if it had steadied itself after the Iran game, instead of being mislead by Hill and his like into selling the broadcast control of the game to Channel Seven, and to people who have never had a love for football, nor who could ever fathom how limited their egoistical dislike really was.

According to Michel Platini, FIFA executive vice-president, who was a guest visitor at the MCG, the higher executive of FIFA is unaware of the relationship that Soccer Australia has with the Seven Network, nor is it aware that it is being exploited and oppressed. He suggested that it would be up to Soccer Australia to inform it of its situation if it wanted action. Soccer Australia should lobby its peak body to impose an end to the downgrading of Australian soccer by the Seven Network.

It might well have been time for Blanco to retire as early as the 1998 Oceania cup, rather than stay on. His departure would have given young coaches like Farina and Postecoglou a chance to stand up and take charge. There are too many positives that exist within the spirit of Australian soccer to really be countered. A multicultural heritage that transcends religion, colour and language. From continent to continent, from backstreet to warfield, it is the people's game, that exists unlike any other.

Christopher Christoforou
By email

A very passionate plea for the world game indeed. Raul Blanco has already accepted responsibility and it will no doubt cost him his job. You are right that soccer failed miserably at Sydney 2000, but I think this had more to do with naivety than it did lack of positive atmosphere amongst the players. The Australian public places high expectations on its sporting teams and although I agree that we did fail, I do think it was a long shot for us to win a medal. Let's be realistic about it - especially with the disruptive preparations we had. - Ed.

Prepare for action

Dear Sir,

Our day will not come unless we realise the solution to our failures on the world stage has always been the same. A lack of preparation.

We have to get more serious. We are not showing the respect that these world events deserve no wonder we can't compete. We have some great football teams but they lack understanding within the team and that can only be developed through preparation.

If we can qualify for the World Cup next year, this roller-coaster ride that Australian Soccer seems to be on will all be worth it.

So come on Aussie, let's do what we have to do and qualify for the World Cup.

Remember seriousness, preparation, and respect.

Go Aussie!

Paul Bottari,
Yokine, WA.

Nice to see you looking to the future. I have no doubt that you are right. Preparation is the key. - Ed.

Predictions correct

Dear Sir,

I wrote to this paper a few months ago saying that Australia would not win a game in the Olympics.

I was dead right. I still say the Aussies have a long way to go yet. As for Mark Viduka, I think he is over rated.Granted, he scored a few goals for Celtic last year but the Scottish Premier League is not in the same class as the English Premier League.

Celtic would not finish in the top eight teams, Viduka as yet to score for Leeds. He is up against top class defenders every week, where do the Aussies go now but back to square one.

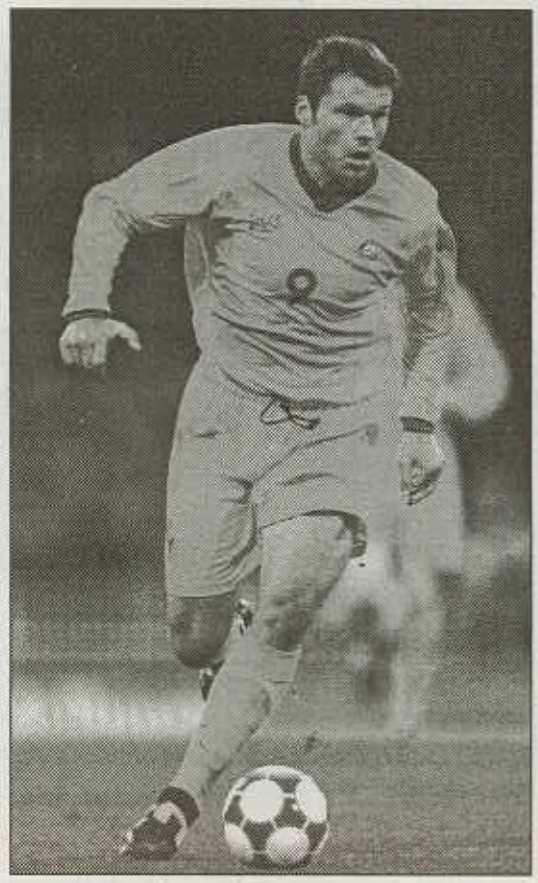
The next job is the 2002 World Cup and now is the time to bring in the Joeys and keep them all together with a good coach, and get rid of some of the players who are now in the team that failed in the Olympics.

Yours in sport

D. Gardner
Hampton Park, VIC.

A fortune telling career beckons! As for Viduka, I can't agree with you. He is one of the best talents to leave our shores and as with every player who joins a new club, it takes time to settle in. Since you wrote this letter Viduka has scored three times for Leeds - One in the champions league in a 6-0 win over Besiktas and twice in a 4-3 victory over Tottenham.

He is a class player and undoubtedly one of our most patriotic. - Ed.



Mark Viduka Over-rated?

Letters to the Editor

Calling Bayern Fans

Dear Sir,

I am wishing to let your readers know that I am really keen on getting in contact with fans of FC Bayern Muenchen. It was dawned on me that arguably one of the greatest and most prestigious football clubs has never had any sort of fan club in Australasia.

At the moment there are organised Bayern supporters in countries from Kenya to China and from Austria to Venezuela.

So I reckon it is time that something was organised here in Australia, as I have seen heaps of people in FCB shirts at both NSL and Socceroo games.

If you ARE a passionate supporter of FC Bayern, and are keen on getting something organised, you can get in contact with me (in either English or German) or 02 9207 8289 (W) or by email at rednwhite-fanatic@yahoo.com. Be you an ex-pat Bavarian or a non-German speaking Aussie, I would love to hear from you!

Hier regiert der FCB!

Julian Farrell,
Redfern, NSW.

Great to see your footballing spirit. Good luck.- Ed.

Newcastle live on

Dear Sir,

A great day in Soccer for Newcastle & Australia.

Constantine the Crusader saves our team from the clutches of the Evil Entrepreneur.

Yet, I am left feeling sad, as a fair deal for the Newcastle Breakers and all involved with the Club takes a back seat to drive a politically motivated agenda.

Brett Williams
Belmont, Newcastle

I am just thankful that the Hunter area lives on in the NSL. All else can be resolved in time and I'm sure Mr.Constantine will be shrewd in his dealings with the club. I am told he is a passionate football fan. Newcastle could not ask for more. - Ed.

BLANCO WAS A MISTAKE

Dear Sir,

On reading Con Michalakos's letter entitled Blanco's Mistakes, everything he wrote was spot on, as a matter of fact I would go one step further and say Blanco was a mistake.

I have been following Australian Soccer for at least 20 years and can honestly say it is pathetic the way this sport has been run.

You would have to give a Gold Medal to Soccer Australia for lack of ability, drive and promotion of the game, we can't even have the Club Championship, it's going to New Guinea. Why, do I ask myself are these men running Soccer Australia? Is it the social aspect boy club? I'll tell you this, it is not for the improvement of Australian Soccer.

There have been a lot of media reports on the values of Tourism, from the Torch Relay and the Olympic Games not for Soccer, we came and went like mist before the dawn, cementing the picture that overseas countries have of us as a weak soccer nation.

I can honestly say I have never seen Simon Colosimo and Brett Emerton display such undisciplined behaviour. They would not have been game to behave like that in the NSL, which points to the lack of discipline by Blanco.

We went to the Sydney Football Stadium and watched Australia versus Honduras. We loved the game, it would probably be the only country in the world where a team would be given a standing ovation even though they lost.

Which brings me to another point the following night on SBS Sports report, Johnny Warren and Les Murray refused to discuss the game. Why? Were they frightened to hurt Raul Blanco's feelings? Who do they blame for this debacle?

Lastly the players are the big losers in this mess, they came back for the love of their country, they take big risks with their clubs, and often pay dearly for their dedication, for what? - a Soccer Administration who are too weak and too tired to make a difference.

I don't know how Frank Farina will go, all I will say is this, be your own man, don't be swayed by different interest groups, there is only one person in charge, and that's you. You will make plenty of good and plenty of bad decisions, but be mature enough to learn by your mistakes.

Raul Blanco: Was he a mistake?

Mrs C. Montgomery
Loftus, NSW.

I think one show of bad discipline by a player should not result in the coach being blamed for bad discipline as a whole. I didn't see any other Australian player show the behaviour Colosimo and Emerton did in the game in question. That's 16 for and two against - not too bad. But at the end of the day it is easy to throw blame in different directions without really putting forward solutions. The idea is as you say, to learn from this event and take us forward to the next level. I, like you, only want to see the best for Australian football. -Ed.

Olympic Champi

ons: Cameroon

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH
SOCCER
WEEKLY

FAMOUS PHOTOS

This is a picture taken on Friday the 22nd of September of the Costa, Calderan, Arquilla and Margiotta families with their famous cousin, Olympic and Udinese soccer star, Massimo Margiotta, in front of the Novotel, Brighton Le-Sands, where the Italian Olympic Soccer team were staying.

Brianna was only 5 weeks old when she had this photo taken with Ian Rush after his first match for Sydney Olympic versus Marconi last December '99. Brianna is even wearing her first Liverpool kit for the occasion.

Have your photo taken with someone famous in soccer? Even if it happened years ago, you can have the photo published in ABSW.
Send photos to — The Editor:

Australian and British Soccer Weekly

P.O. Box 155, Marrickville NSW 1475

Or E-mail the photo in JPEG format to
soccerweekly@hotmail.com or soccer@foreignlanguage.com.au
**All photos will be returned.*

JUNIOR SOCCER

HAVE YOUR PHOTO OR A PHOTO OF YOUR SOCCER TEAM PUBLISHED IN THE
AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY.
AND TELL YOUR FRIENDS TO SEND IN THEIR PHOTOS TOO.
SEND PHOTOS TO:- **THE EDITOR, AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY, P.O. BOX 115, MARRICKVILLE NSW 1475,**
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SCHOOL SOCCER

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STARS IN THE MAKING

ABSW's Mark Stavroulakis continues his weekly look at Junior Soccer in Australia.

George Nohra

AT A GLANCE

Full Name:	George Nohra
Club:	Wollongong Wolves
DOB:	29/4/82
Left/Right:	Right
Eye Colour:	Brown
Hair Colour:	Black
Height:	6ft
Weight:	79kg
Positions Played:	Centre Midfield

THE STATS & FACTS

Clubs Played At:
U13 — U18 Parramatta Eagles
Season '99-00' — Sydney Olympic Youth Team

Age Started Playing Soccer: 5 years old

THE LOOK FORWARD

Career Highlight To Date: Captaining U16 Parramatta Eagles side winning State Championship, Minor Premiership and Grand Final, and making the Lebanese National youth squad. Making the men's senior Australian indoor soccer team.

Ambition: To Play in Europe soon

Words Of Advice: 'Train hard and be willing to express yourself, also be strong on the ball'

Best Advice Received: 'Be strong on the ball, don't be scared to take players on' (Leo Carle Senior)

PERSONALITY INSIGHT

Favourite Actor: Robert De Niro
Favourite Actress: Uma Thurman

Top 5 Movies:
-The Bronx Tale
-Jerry Maguire
-Pretty Woman
-The Wanderers
-Scarface

Favourite Comedian: Eddie Murphy
If you could be a character from any movie who would you be? Eddie Murphy in Coming to America
Best ever concert: Celebrations for Sydney 2000 held at Darling Harbour

5 Cd's You Couldn't Do Without?
-Notorious BIG - Born Again
-The Wood Album
-De La Soul
-Ministry of Sound Millennium Edition
-Previous DMX albums

Favourite TV show: Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
Favourite Cartoon Character: Johnny Bravo

Dinner Party For 6, Who Would You Invite?
-Alyssa Milano
-Rivaldo
-Marion Jones
-Nicole Kidman
-Carlos Nobra
-Pete Sampras

Entrée: Garlic Prawns
Main Course: Any of my mum's meals
Dessert: Coconut Magnum

THE PEERS

Favourite Overseas Player: Leo Carle
Favourite Overseas Team: Barcelona
Most Admired Australian Player (Local Based): Saso Petrovski
Most Admired Australian Player (Overseas Based): Ned Zelic
Most Admired Defender: Robert Stanton & George Souris
Most Admired Midfielder: Rivaldo
Most Admired Striker: Paul Scholes
Most Admired Goalkeeper: Peter Schmeichel

A new season is dawning in the National League and many clubs have picked up many players in order of making their teams complete.

One such team, who not only got new players, but a new coach as well have dwelled into the Australian youth system and picked out a couple of young and exciting players.

Wollongong Wolves is the side, and George Nohra is the name that will hopefully live up to the high expectations made by the former Grand-Final winners.

George Nohra: Great start at the Wolves.

George Nohra, 18, has had the pleasure of taking part in a tour that was very unique to this country, multicultural wise. He was one of a 20 strong man side that toured Lebanon under the name of the Australian Lebanese side.

"I was fortunate enough to be apart of a good squad that toured Lebanon in '99. It went for two weeks and for me it was a very good experience. We played against the four best sides over there gaining credible results," said the young ace. Nohra incidentally was the youngest member of a squad filled with many National League players such as Michael Reda, Robbie Stanton, Ahmed Elrich, Hass Jomaa and Ray Younis to name a few.

This centre midfield sensation has indoor soccer to thank, as it was from this he gained the supreme knowledge in shielding and expressing himself brilliantly with the ball.

"I have been picked for the up and coming World Cup in Bolivia this year in the Men's senior National Team. Whether I go is entirely up to my tough schedule this year, but I knew that indoor really helped my game a lot as expressing yourself in my mind is the greatest thing in the game," said 'Georgie'.

Being a product of the Parramatta Melita Eagles side, Nohra spent four years at the club where he knew he was part of many people who helped him become the player he is today.

"From the U11-U12 with Norm Boardman who coached me at Bankstown, Tim Fennlyson who coached me in the U18's at Melita, Bill Pappas, my coach in the Under 16's, all these coaches were very influential making me train and play that much better," said the gun midfielder.

After his successes at Melita, where George captained the U16's to the triple, Nohra was signed up by Sydney Olympic. "I thought that the National Youth League was equivalent to the U21's in the NSW Super League. I enjoyed it at Olympic, I did have a good experience there, but I thought it was time to move on," said Nohra.

The Nike sponsored player was then snapped up this year by Ron Corry's Wolves side. Youth will play a vital role in this year's National League, and Wolves especially will look towards that. George has signed a two-year deal at Brandon Park, and has so far caused shockwaves throughout the south coast with some great performances in friendly matches.

"We have had a tough pre-season, with games like Sydney United, Wollongong Select side and Parramatta Power I thought I did reasonably well. The National League sure is physical, but I think Ifll benefit from this as I have a good bunch of players beside me," said the former Benilde High student.

George was of course inspired greatly by yet another former Olympic player Leo Carle, who Nohra believes showed him the ropes to start at the top.

"Leo is enjoying success in Chile now at a high level, and I hope that one day I may do the same, but in the mean time I'll put in the hard yards in trying to crack a first team spot at the Wolves," said the Sydney University student.

Yet another Goalkeeper ready to make his debut on the National League stage, Mathew Nash sure knows what it takes to get to the top.

The 19-year-old Nowra born lad has had the NSW Institute to thank for his accreditation so far in his soccer career where he spent three good years there.

"I think the NSWIS benefited me a lot as it was very professional, it made me mature as a player and taught me the discipline side of soccer. The specialised coaches and the facilities made this place a haven for young progressing soccer players like myself. Coach Kelly Cross is one to thank as helped me get on the right track in becoming a good keeper," said Nash.

Before his Institute days, Nash took part in two Nationals under the NSW Country shirt. "I took part in the '96 Nationals held in Brisbane and the '97 titles held in Sydney. Both were a good experience for me even though we didn't do so well, playing against the best states really brought out the best in us," said the former Institute lad.

His main focus this year is on his club team Marconi, where he is under a youth contract and is close to starting a National League game. "I'm currently injured now with a torn tendon in my shoulder. However I'm on the recovery trail, and I hope that when I come back Ifll be stronger than ever.

Marconi is a great club with awesome facilities and real friendly people, that is what appealed to me most," said the former Bomaderri High student.

'Nashy's ambition this year is to try and debut in the National League, but also would love to play in the English or Dutch league. However his call-up to the Young Australian U20 side was by far his best achievement. "Getting called up was great, now I have to fight this injury so I can be able to trial for my country," said Nash.

Matthew is no stranger to the word 'tour', as he has been on the road with the '98 Australian schoolboys squad and the '99 Marconi youth side who took part in the Viareggio Cup. "With the schoolboys it was much more relaxed, we spent eight days in New Zealand and Fiji playing some good matches but all in all it was an easy tournament. The Cup in Italy was more difficult, and I thought the experience was brilliant as not only was I a part of one of the best youth tournaments in the world, but being amongst the cream of the crop at my age was something that made me a happy lad," said 'Nashy'.

The Marconi lad wants to emulate Paraguayan Keeper Jose Chilavert as he believes he too is crazy like him.

"I like the fact that he is daring and would make some unbelievable saves. I play a similar style to him and that is also why I like him as my best keeper." ended Matthew.

MARCONI STALLIONS

Matthew Nash

AT A GLANCE

Full Name	Matthew Nash
Club:	Marconi
DOB:	3/4/81
Left/Right:	Right
Eye Colour:	Blue
Hair Colour:	Blonde
Height:	6ft
Weight:	74kg
Positions Played:	Goalkeeper

THE STATS & FACTS

Clubs Played At:
U13-U16 Southern Branch
Spent 3 years at the NSW Institute of Sport
Season 99 signed with Marconi youth

Age Started Playing Soccer: 10

THE LOOK FORWARD

Career Highlight To Date: Made the Australian Under 20's camp, played Australian schoolboys in 98

Ambition: To make 1st grade in Australia then head abroad

Words Of Advice: 'Listen to advice other people give you'

Best Advice Received: 'Listen to advice other people give you' (Coaches)

PERSONALITY INSIGHT

Favourite Actor: Adam Sandler
Favourite Actress: Cameron Diaz

Top 5 Movies:
-Scary Movie
-Shawshank Redemption
-Happy Gilmore
-Top Gun
-Bulletproof
-Rocky II

Favourite Comedian: Adam Sandler
If you could be a character from any movie who would you be? Michael Douglas in Basic Instinct
Best ever concert: Incite at the North Nowra Tavern

5 Cd's You Couldn't Do Without?
-Wild 11
-Wild 10
-Live
-Red Hot Chilli Peppers — Calfornication
-Powderfinger

Favourite TV show: Just Shoot Me
Favourite Cartoon Character: Homer Simpson

Dinner Party For 6, Who Would You Invite?
-Me
-Myself
-I
-Cameron Diaz
-Anna Kournakova
-Mimi McPherson

Entrée: Prawn Cocktails
Main Course: Steak and Chips
Dessert: Mudcake with strawberries and cream

THE PEERS

Favourite Overseas Player: Harry Kewell
Favourite Overseas Team: Leeds United
Most Admired Australian Player (Local Based): Matthew Horsley
Most Admired Australian Player (Overseas Based): Mark Viduka
Most Admired Defender: Jaap Stam
Most Admired Midfielder: David Beckham
Most Admired Striker: Harry Kewell
Most Admired Goalkeeper: Jose Chilavert
Hardest Opponent (Played): Everyone is hard, as every game is different

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Dynamo revive hopes with Anderlecht win

Dynamo Kiev	4
Anderlecht	0

Two goals by Georgi Demetradze helped Dynamo Kiev crush Anderlecht 4-0 in a Champions League Group G tie last week to revive their hopes of reaching the second phase.

The Ukrainian side dominated most of the game, but they had to wait until the 52nd minute for Andriy Husin to take advantage of confusion in the Anderlecht defence and slot Kiev's first goal home. He scored after latching on to a poor clearance by the Anderlecht defence.

With Anderlecht's Czech striker Jan Koller only rarely threatening the Kiev goal, the Ukrainians kept probing at the Belgians.

Maxim Shatskikh doubled the tally in the 80th minute from a ball by Yuri Dmytrulin. Demetradze then finished off the Belgians with his two goals in the 89th minute and four minutes into injury time.

Veteran Dynamo coach Valery Lobanovsky, refused to be carried away by his team's performance.

"A coach should never be satisfied with the game or its result," he said.

Belgian coach Aime Anthuenis said that Kiev's victory was well deserved, although he believed Demetradze's first goal should have been disallowed for what he called the Ukrainian's "rude and dangerous play".

Leeds Crush Turks

Leeds	6
Besiktas	0

Besiktas coach Nevio Scala, shell-shocked after a 6-0 defeat by Leeds United, said inexperience had cost his side dearly in the Champions League last week.

After losing to AC Milan and surprisingly beating Barcelona in their previous Group H games, Scala saw his team torn apart by Leeds who scored twice in the final minute.

"I don't know what went wrong. We were not on the field. But I think the same thing happened to us tonight as happened to Leeds when they lost 4-0 in Barcelona," Scala said.

"They are both young teams and this is what happens when you have inexperienced players. But I have to pay a compliment to Leeds — of all the teams we have played so far Leeds are the strongest."

The Italian coach claimed Leeds, equal on six points with AC Milan, would face a far stiffer test in the return game on October 18.

"We have time before we play Leeds so we have time to heal this wound and we will see a different team from the one we saw tonight."

Leeds coach David O'Leary had feared his team were going to struggle after Besiktas's win over Barcelona last week.

"I rated them. I saw them play and thought they were a good side. I fancied a really tough game tonight."

Despite Leeds topping the group at the halfway stage he is still refusing to back his team to qualify for the second phase.

"If somebody told me that after three games in this group we would have six points I would have said it was a fantastic achievement.

"It will still be tough to qualify but we have given ourselves a chance. You don't know how important this night could be. Goal difference could win this group so it was vital we continued to play well to the end."

Olivier Decourt of Leeds tries to tackle

Leeds were in front after just seven minutes when Lee Bowyer stabbed home an Ian Harte cross. Mark Viduka stretched the lead in the 12th minute with a free header and Dominic Matteo added a third.

Eirik Bakke scored with a well-placed 65th minute shot before substitute Darren Huckerby found the net in the last minute and then set up Bowyer for his second of the night.

Greeks defeat Hamburg

Hamburg	0
Panathinaikos	1

A stunning strike by Panathinaikos striker Georgios Nassiopoulos handed the Athens side a potentially crucial 1-0 away victory over Hamburg in Champions League Group E last week.

With just one point from their first three games, the German side are now anchored at the bottom of the group and face a huge task in resurrecting their hopes of further progress in the competition.

Deprived of Argentine playmaker Rodolfo Cardoso, who limped off the pitch after just two minutes, Hamburg looked tactically bereft from the outset and increasingly vulnerable to a series of Greek counter-attacks.

The decisive goal came as Nassiopoulos broke through from the halfway line in the 37th minute and sold a neat dummy to advancing goalkeeper Hans Joerg Butt before slotting the ball home.

"Cardoso coming off was a major setback for us," conceded Hamburg coach Frank Pagelsdorf. "Then came the goal. We were always fighting an uphill battle from then on."

Zidane sent off as Juventus draw

Juventus	0
Deportivo	0

Zinedine Zidane was sent off as Juventus were held to a 0-0 draw at home by Deportivo La Coruna in Champions League Group E last week.

Zidane was dismissed for a late challenge on Brazilian Emerson in the 68th minute but Deportivo were unable to take advantage of their extra man in a disappointing game.

Juventus left out Alessandro Del Piero for French striker David Trezeguet and they had the first chance in the 16th minute when Filippo Inzaghi took advantage of a defensive mix-up and beat goalkeeper Jose Molina.

But defender Nourredine Naybet cleared off the line and then blocked Inzaghi's follow-up shot.

Deportivo began cautiously and their first effort on goal did not come until the 29th minute when Turu Flores cut in from the left and his low shot flashed just wide of the post.

That appeared to give the Spaniards confidence and a minute later the dangerous Turu Flores forced a good save out of Edwin Van der Sar with a low drive.

Deportivo should have broken the deadlock in the 62nd minute when Emerson, on as a substitute for Turu Flores, put a ball across the face of the goal but Cesar Sampaio blasted wide from close range.

With Juve drifting out of the game coach Carlo Ancelotti replaced Inzaghi with Del Piero.

Deportivo's Manuel Pablo fouls Juventus' Alessandro Del Piero during their match in Turin.

But his hopes of energising his attack were dealt a blow when Zidane was harshly sent off for a late, but hardly vicious challenge on Emerson in the 68th minute.

Juventus coach Carlo Ancelotti felt the Frenchman had not deserved to see red.

He said: "The red card for Zidane was unjust and meant that we had to suffer a lot in the second half. He is a great player and of course we will miss him in the return match."

PSV Stun Man. United

PSV Eindhovan	3
Manchester United	1

PSV Eindhoven pulled off a stunning and richly deserved 3-1 Champions League victory over Group G favourites Manchester United, leaving the English champions to rue their decision to rest key players.

The Dutch side outplayed United who provided few ideas after a promising start and went top of the group. United dropped to third, level on points with second-placed Dynamo Kiev, 4-0 conquerors of Anderlecht.

United rested David Beckham, Ronny Johnsen, Andy Cole and Ryan Giggs.

And they had looked set to coast through after taking the lead in the third minute. The early breakthrough came when PSV keeper Ronald Waterreus brought down Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, leaving Paul Scholes to slot home the penalty.

But PSV gradually took over midfield, then ripped open United's fragile defence.

"We came away empty-handed from Brussels last week, so winning today was crucial," said a delighted PSV coach Eric Gerets.

The equaliser came in the 17th minute from Wilfred Bouma, who latched on to a perfectly-weighted long ball from Yuri Nikiforov and passed United's Philip Neville before hammering home.

The second arrived in the 38th minute when Mateja Kezman fed Mark van Bommel. The PSV midfielder had been left free by Mikael Silvestre on the United left and he pushed his shot between the feet of sprawled goalkeeper Raimond van der Gouw.

Kezman sent the home crowd wild in the 64th minute when he rounded Silvestre and thumped his drive into the far corner of the net. The Turkish player, a record close-season buy and arguably PSV's best player on the night, had earlier just missed the upright.

"I am delighted we managed to pull the game back after the start," added Gerets, who had beefed up his midfield and chosen to play three in attack.

Beckham and Giggs were finally sent on in the 70th minute, with United already trailing 3-1. It proved too late, although a Beckham free-kick in the dying minutes was well-saved by Waterreus.

Arnold Bruggink of PSV celebrates his goal as a dejected Gary Neville and Raimond Van Der Gouw look on.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Marco Simone scores his third goal beating Strum Graz keeper Josef Schicklgruber.

Monaco trounce Austrians

Monaco	5
Strum Graz	0

A first-half hat-trick by Marco Simone set up Monaco's 5-0 Champions League thrashing of Sturm Graz last week.

The French champions, who needed a win in Group D to keep their hopes alive, moved ahead through Simone in the 13th minute.

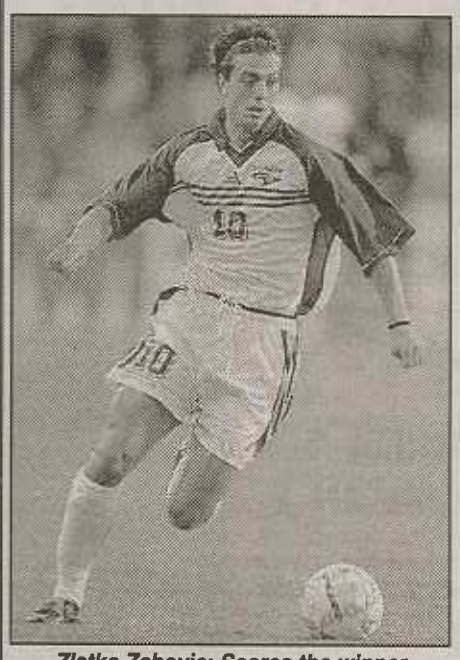
The Italian made it two in the 38th minute when he slotted home a ball deflected by goalkeeper Josef Schiklgruber.

Simone put the outcome beyond doubt three minutes later with a fine lob from just outside the box.

Substitute Pontus Farnerud, a replacement for captain Martin Djetou netted a pass by Croat Dado Prso in the 76th minute then Shabani Nonda slotted in a loose ball six minutes from time.

Graz went closest to scoring when Hannes Reinmayr volleyed against the far post in the 20th minute.

Late goal preserves perfect start



Zlatko Zahovic: Scores the winner 12 minutes from time.

Valencia	1
Lyon	0

Valencia's Slovenian forward Zlatko Zahovic struck 12 minutes from time to give the Spanish side a 1-0 win over Olympique Lyon in their Champions League Group C match last week.

Victory for Valencia, last season's beaten finalists, gave them maximum points from their three matches and left them strong favourites to reach the second stage.

Hector Cuper's team missed a great chance to take the lead after 38 minutes when captain Gaizka Mendieta saw his penalty saved by Gregory Coupet, who also smothered the follow-up from Juan Sanchez.

But after an untidy period at the start of the second half the introduction of Zahovic provided the inspiration for victory as he took a Kily Gonzalez through ball in his stride and tucked the ball past the Lyon keeper.

Fighting Real take points

Bayern Leverkusen	2
Real Madrid	3

Real Madrid twice came from behind at Bayer Leverkusen last week before Roberto Carlos pounced on a late defensive error to make it 3-2 and keep the European champions top of Champions League Group A.

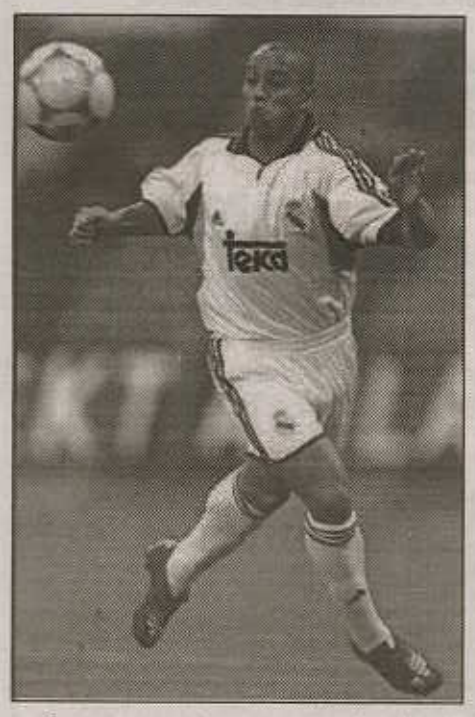
Leverkusen took the lead after 27 minutes when Bernd Schneider controlled a partially stopped Robert Kovac shot, turned in the box and slotted the ball into the top left corner.

Real replied five minutes later with Roberto Carlos blasting an intimidating free-kick through Leverkusen's defensive wall.

The Germans went ahead again through Michael Ballack just before halftime but Guti put the score level again, easily finding space in the box to shoot unmarked on 69 minutes.

Bayer were struggling to keep a steadily improving Real side in check when Germany defender Jens Nowotny carelessly lost possession 15 minutes from time.

Roberto Carlos needed no second invitation to power through the scattered defence and drive home the winner.



Roberto Carlos: Scored the winner late on.

Gala edge past Rangers

Galatasaray	3
Rangers	2

UEFA cup holders Galatasaray enjoyed a 3-2 victory in their Champions League Group D clash with Rangers despite a late fightback from the Scottish champions last week.

The Turkish side dominated the first half, squandering numerous opportunities to go in front.

But their superiority was finally rewarded in the 52nd minute when midfielder Bulent Akin put them in front with a well-taken goal.

Five minutes later defender Hakan Unsal curled in a delightful shot with the outside of his left foot. Striker Mario Jardel volleyed the third in the 70th minute to put Galatasaray in control.

But Rangers hit back almost immediately with a close-range header from Andrei Kanchelskis and after a furious spell of attacking Giovanni van Bronckhurst smashed a 90th-minute free kick past goalkeeper Taffarel.

Defender Lorenzo Amoruso will miss Rangers' next match after picking up his third yellow card in the competition.

Arsenal down Lazio

Arsenal	2
Lazio	0

Arsenal took a big step towards qualifying for the second phase of the Champions League after Sweden's Fredrik Ljungberg scored both goals in a 2-0 victory over Group B rivals Lazio.

Dutch international Dennis Bergkamp, back in form after scoring an equaliser against Ipswich, set up both goals for his team mate in the 43rd and 56th minutes.

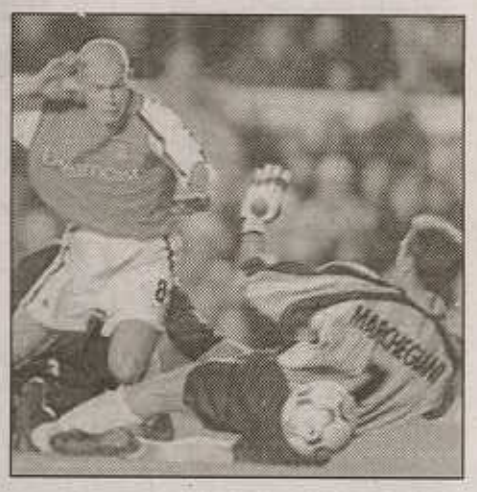
Ljungberg, who might have scored a hat-trick had he not fallen over at the vital moment in the 75th minute, moved Arsenal to the top of their group with three wins from three matches.

The Italian Double winners, who like Arsenal had won both matches before the tie, fought hard in the battle for midfield but failed to make any headway against an Arsenal defence marshalled by returning skipper Tony Adams.

Lazio's best effort was an 86th-minute free-kick from Yugoslav defender Sinisa Mihajlovic, wearing a protective mask after cracking a cheekbone last week, which forced a reflex tip over the bar by Arsenal goalkeeper David Seaman.

With Arsenal applying the early pressure, their first real chance was a 10th minute free-kick on the edge of the area, tapped sideways by Thierry Henry for Bergkamp to smack in a shot which ricocheted out.

Lazio's Claudio Lopez found the back of the net in the 20th minute — but the whistle for off-side had been blown well before the ball sailed over Seaman's head.



Arsenal's Fredrik Ljungberg scores his second goal against Lazio at Highbury.

The Italian champions were growing in confidence and Mihajlovic drove two free-kicks menacingly wide of the post however Arsenal's relentless pressure finally paid off in the 43rd minute when Nwankwo Kanu took possession on the right, picked out Bergkamp inside the area and the Dutchman's downward header was swept home first-time by Ljungberg.

Lazio reacted immediately but Inzaghi failed to keep a close-range header on target.

It proved to be a costly miss as Arsenal went 2-0 up 11 minutes after the re-start. Bergkamp went on a run from central midfield before prodding the ball through for Ljungberg, who outpaced substitute Attilio Lombardo to lash a first-time drive past Marchegiani and secure victory.

Sporting Lisbon players celebrate taking the lead at Spartak Moscow. The lead was short lived as the Portuguese went down 3-1.

Spartak upset Sporting

Spartak Moscow	3
Sporting Lisbon	1

Two goals from Brazilian substitute Marcao and one from compatriot Luis Robson gave Spartak Moscow a 3-1 win over Sporting of Portugal in their Champions League Group A tie last week.

Marcao scored in the 67th and 81st minutes to help Spartak to one of their biggest wins in European competition, boosting their chances of reaching the second phase.

Spartak were forced to come from behind after Sporting went ahead after 24 minutes. Sa Pinto easily knocked the ball into the net after a mistake by Spartak goalkeeper Alexander Filimonov.

But Robson equalised after 43 minutes after Sporting 'keeper Peter Schmeichel failed to fully clear a powerful shot by Andrejs Stolcers.

Marcao scored his first with a powerful header after a ranging cross by fellow substitute Vassily Baranov. He finished off the Portuguese side after playing a wonderful one-two with Robson and drilling the ball past Schmeichel.

FULL RESULTS AND TABLES - PAGE 26

WORLD

ITALY

ATALANTA 2 LAZIO 2

Lazio went ahead after just three minutes when Sinisa Mihajlovic fired in a free-kick from wide on the right which beat ill-positioned Atalanta 'keeper Alberto Fontana.

But Atalanta drew level in the 21st minute when Lazio defender Giuseppe Pancaro headed a corner into his own net.

Lazio went behind in the 58th minute when Cristian Zanoni ran through a gaping hole in the Lazio defence and coolly slotted home.

But Lazio substitute Simone Inzaghi earned his side a point when he pounced on a loose ball in the 73rd minute after Pavel Nedved's shot was parried by Fontana.

Gabriel Batistuta in action against Bologna.

AC MILAN 2 VICENZA 0

A confident start from Milan with German Oliver Bierhoff opening the scoring as he rose to head home a cross from Gennaro Gattuso.

Vicenza looked dangerous on the break but Ukrainian Andriy Shevchenko, last season's top scorer in Serie A, completed the win with a fine header from a deep Federico Giunti cross.

PARMA 2 FIORENTINA 2

Parma took the lead in the fifth minute with a powerful Marcio Amoroso header but Fiorentina fought back well with a 65th minute header from Alessandro Pierini. Cristian Amoroso looked to have given them a winner with an 82nd minute goal after good work from Nuno Gomes.

But Parma drew level with a last-minute penalty from Marcio Amoroso, after Fiorentina defender Tomas Repka pulled down Emiliano Bonazzoli. Repka was sent off for the offence.

PERUGIA 1 LECCE 1

A superb 20-metre strike from Croatian forward Davor Vugrinec gave Lecce a perfect start after 24 minutes.

Perugia claimed a point after Marco Materazzi converted a 73rd minute penalty after a foul by Matteo Pivotto, which saw the Lecce defender dismissed.

REGGINA 2 INTER MILAN 1

Alvaro Recoba gave Inter the lead in the 10th minute after being well-set up by Hakan Sukur.

But Reggina drew level on the stroke of half-time when Davide Possanzini took advantage of some hesitant defending. The winner came five minutes after the restart when Massimo Marazzina blasted home a left-foot shot after some neat build-up play.

AS ROMA 2 BOLOGNA 0

Italy international Francesco Totti put Roma ahead with a 27th minute header after a fine cross from Marcos Assuncao.

A 67th minute own goal by Bologna defender Marcello Castellini secured the three points for Fabio Capello's side.

UDINESE 4 BRESCIA 2

On a barely playable water-logged pitch, Udinese took the lead in the second minute through Roberto Sosa and doubled their advantage in the 58th minute through Iaquinta.

Brescia fought back in the 64th minute when an Udinese clearance ricocheted into the net off Pierpaolo Bisoli and in the 80th minute full-back Aimo Diana pulled Brescia level.

But a minute later Mohammed Gargo restored Udinese's lead with a thundering header and with six minutes to go Roberto Muzzi danced through the Brescia defence, and three puddles, to grab the fourth.

Ac Milan's Andriy Shevchenko gets past a Vicenza defender during their match at the San Siro. Milan won 2-0.

BARI 1 VERONA 1

Bari took the lead nine minutes from time when Swede Yksel Osmanovski was pulled down inside the penalty area and his compatriot Daniel Andersson converted the spot kick.

But Verona grabbed an equaliser three minutes from the end when defender Natale Gonnella volleyed home a corner for his first ever goal in Serie A.

NAPOLI 1 JUVENTUS 2

Napoli took a deserved lead in the 41st minute when defender Ciro Ferrara gave the ball away, Napoli winger David Sesa burst down the right flank and Roberto Stellone slotted home his low cross.

Two minutes after coming on as a substitute, Yugoslav Darko Kovecevic brought Juventus level in the 67th minute with a header from a Zinedine Zidane cross. Alessandro Del Piero grabbed the winner with a beautiful, curling shot in the 75th minute.

Francesco Totti of Roma celebrates his goal against Bologna. Roma won 2-0.

RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

We're away and running in the Serie A for season 2000/01 and once again it promises to be an action-packed season.

It all got under way on Saturday afternoon in Italy with Bari and Verona playing out a 1-1 draw.

The Saturday evening game was the much anticipated game between Napoli and Juventus and for the record Juve got away with the game 2-1.

It was also interesting to note that the game was handled by Italy's top referee, Pierluigi Collina, who last year on the last day, forced Juventus to return to the field against Perugia. This occurred after the game was interrupted for over an hour after very heavy rains stopped the match. Juventus eventually lost the game and then the Championship as well. It was an unbelievable finish to the season!

Napoli were returning to the Serie A after two years and an amazing 83 000 fans packed the San Paolo Stadium in Naples to capacity.

Napoli have decided to retire the number 10 shirt forever - a shirt that will now always be attributed to Diego Maradona. It is the same thing that AC Milan did with Franco Baresi's number 6 shirt.

Napoli are now coached by Zdenek Zeman - surely one of the most controversial coaches ever in the history of the Serie A.

Zeman is either loved or hated in Italy and he is not one to be shy about speaking up. Only two years ago he made public allegations that players were using illegal substances to enhance performances.

"Football must be removed from the chemists," was his famous quote. His ire was centred on a few clubs but especially Juventus. Irony was that his new club Napoli were to play Juventus on day one of the Serie A!

Zeman questioned the development of some players at Juventus and in particular Alex Del Piero and Gianluca Vialli.

It was Del Piero who scored the winning goal for Juventus on Saturday night against Napoli and it is Vialli who is rumoured to be taking over the reigns at Juve should current mentor, Carlo Ancelotti, fail. Football is indeed a funny old game!

Zeman fans are many in Italy because his teams generally play a very entertaining brand of football. He is a devoted follower of the 4-3-3 formation, no matter who the opponent may be.

He has coached at Foggia, Lazio and Roma previously in the Serie A. His best achievement was in 1995 when his Lazio team finished in second place.

It was a very entertaining Lazio to watch - a particular 8-0 victory over Fiorentina comes to mind - and so too were his Foggia and Roma teams under his guidance. Zeman knows how to get his teams to play great football.

Zeman is generally regarded as a great tactician, if not the very best tactician in Italy. His only problem is that he never had great teams at his disposal and therefore, on the 'scoreboard of achievements', his tally is not that great.

Napoli's appointment of Zeman as coach is a masterstroke in every sense. If they do well, Zeman is a genius but if they fail, then they appointed a 'quack'. Who else would have blown the lid on the doping in the Serie A?

The interesting point about his allegations was that they had real foundations.

Many tried to discredit the man and legal action was threatened etc. However, Zeman was unperturbed.

Everyone knew that players had for years taken substances that were not always in the spirit of the game. It was common knowledge but it was never publicly revealed.

Sadly, it took a very courageous Zeman to reveal it publicly and now two years later, he is still best remembered for that rather than his coaching prowess.

WORLD PREMIER LEAGUE

CHELSEA 3 LIVERPOOL 0

Chelsea, third from bottom at the start of the day and knocked out of the UEFA Cup by Swiss minnows St Gallen, eased their problems with a 3-0 victory over Liverpool.

Liverpool's Dutch goalkeeper Sander Westerveld started the trouble by punching a Gianfranco Zola corner into his own net in the 10th minute.

Zola also had a hand in Chelsea's second just 90 seconds later, picking out Gudjohnsen.

The Icelander supplied a square pass from the right and Dutch striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink smacked a first-time shot over a helpless Westerveld.

Gudjohnsen added Chelsea's third in the 71st minute, breaking through on the left, rounding Westerveld and slotting the ball into an empty net.

ARSENAL 1 MAN UNITED 0

A candidate for goal of the seaon by Arsenal striker Thierry Henry was enough to give the Gunners a 1-0 win over bitter rivals and title contnders Manchester United at Highbury.

United, with Fabien Barthez between the posts after a back injury, applied the early pressure but Arsenal topped a series of well-worked moves with a stunning goal from Henry in the 29th minute.

With his back to goal, Henry collected a pass 20 metres out from fellow Frenchman Gilles Grimandi, flicked the ball into the air and swivelled round to smack a looping volley over his international team mate Barthez.

Teddy Sheringham was awarded a golden oppurtunity to get a point for the visitors but he blasted his free shot over the bar.

SUNDERLAND 0 LEICESTER 0

Leicester City went top of the Premiership for the first time since 1963 drawing 0-0 at Sunderland as champions Manchester United crashed to a 1-0 defeat at Arsenal.

This match reached no great heights, apart from a number of testing crosses from Kevin Kilbane and Michael Gray, the home side never looked like improving on their record of one win in eight at home to The Foxes.

ASTON VILLA 4 DERBY COUNTY 1

Julian Joachim replaced David Ginola for Villa early on and put his side ahead from Paul Merson's pass after 28 minutes against winless County.

Merson made it 2-0 with his 100th league goal 11 minutes later and team mate Alan Wright's 54th-minute effort killed the game. Chris Riggott pulled one back for Derby after 61 minutes but Joachim rounded off an emphatic Villa win three minutes from time.

CHARLTON 2 COVENTRY 2

Australian John Aloisi, scorer of a midweek hat-trick in the League Cup, bobbled in his first league goal of the season four minutes before the break to rock high-flying Charlton.

The Londoners levelled through Andy Hunt on the hour only for Craig Bellamy to level from the spot for City after Richard Rufus handballed. Finnish striker Jonatan Johansson's overhead kick after 87 minutes saved Charlton a point.

Chelsea celebrate a surprising 3-0 win over Liverpool.

EVERTON 0 IPSWICH TOWN 3

John McGreal's bullet header put the visitors in front at Goodison after 19 minutes against an Everton side who lost to Bristol Rovers in the League Cup during the week.

Ipswich had not won at Goodison for 20 years but sealed victory with two Marcus Stewart strikes (49, 60) against a sorry Everton side.

LEEDS 4 TOTTENHAM 3

Ukrainian Serhiy Rebrov deceived Leeds goalkeeper Nigel Martyn to give Tottenham a surprise lead eight minutes before the break. Leeds lost captain Lucas Radebe who was taken to hospital at half-time after a clash of heads with Les Ferdinand.

But five goals in an extraordinary 12-minute spell turned the match round at the start of the second half. Australian Mark Viduka hit his first two league goals for Leeds and an Alan Smith header made it 3-1 after 59 minutes. Almost immediately Chris Perry headed home for Tottenham but straight away Smith headed his second after 64 minutes to make it 4-2.

Rebrov's overhead effort after 74 minutes made it 4-3, despite Smith's attempt to clear it off the line.

MAN CITY 0 NEWCASTLE UTD 1

City's stand-in - goalkeeper Tommy Wright defied a rampant Newcastle in the first half, saving notably from Alan Shearer, Kieron Dyer and Lomano Lua Lua.

But Shearer finally broke City's resistance 16 minutes from time, converting from substitute Nolberto Solano's pass to secure the three points.

SOUTHAMPTON 1 MIDDLESBROUGH 3

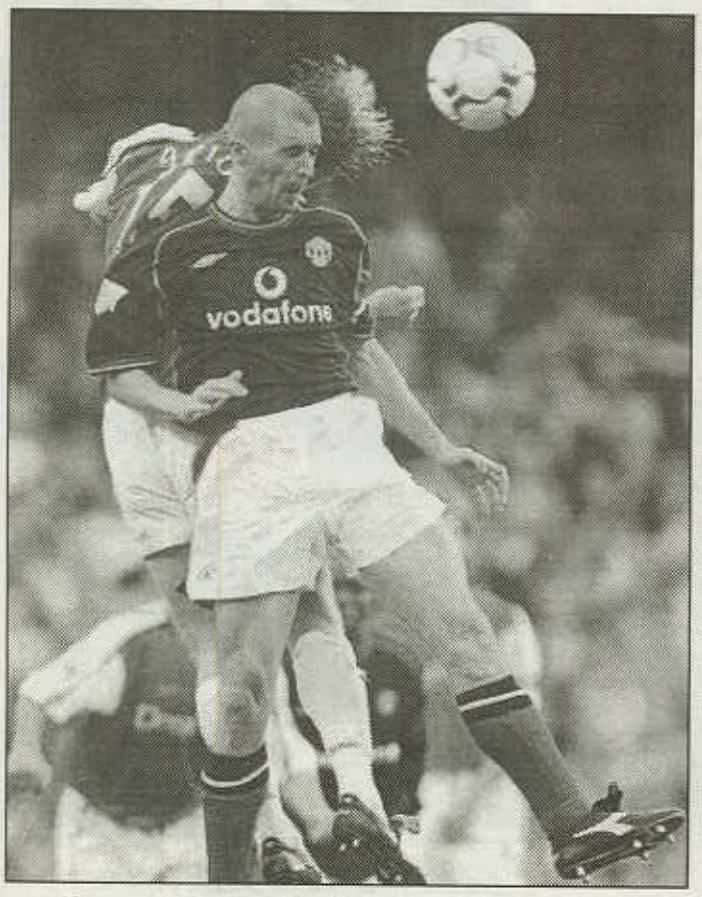
Southampton came into the match on the back of four straight wins. But after 17 minutes Croatian striker Alen Boskic put Middlesbrough ahead against the run of play after a mazy run through the home defence.

Gianluca Festa made it 2-0 after 32 minutes and Southampton never recovered. Marian Pahars pulled one back with a header after 81 minutes but almost immediately Boksic snatched his second to seal 'Boro's victory.

WEST HAM UTD 1 BRADFORD CITY 1

Joe Cole celebrated his England call-up by heading West Ham in front after 26 minutes at Upton Park, his second goal in a week.

West Ham deserved their second successive win but were denied at the death when Romania's Dan Petrescu levelled in the final minute for Bradford, who jumped above Derby at the bottom.



Manchester United's Roy Keane jumps above Arsenal's Ray Parlour. United went down 1-0.

MURPHY'S LAW

By Julian Murphy

Last week this column commented on how the team spirit at Leicester City was an important ingredient in the sides current high league standing. Also mentioned was how 'even Stan Collymore appeared to be getting on with his team mates.'

That may well be right but apparently there was one bloke who he wasn't enjoying a sound relationship with. Unfortunately for Collymore this was the man who calls the shots at Leicester City, manager Peter Taylor. Taylor believes Collymore doesn't 'give a monkey's about Leicester City Football Club' and has subsequently stuck the troublesome striker on the transfer list.

Yes indeed, Stan the Man has certainly been sent to Coventry. Not that he'll get a game for the Sky Blues though. Gordon Strachan won't be keen to make the same mistake as Liverpool, Aston Villa and now Leicester City have.

From everything that Taylor has said it is clear that Collymore hasn't learnt a thing from his disastrous stints with the Reds and the Villans. Attitude problems and laziness have again brought him undone with his lightweight effort, and undisciplined clash with Paul Gascoigne, against Everton being the last straw.

What does the future now hold for Stan Collymore? It is unlikely that many clubs would be falling over themselves to purchase a player with such an inflated ego and history of poor behaviour. Perhaps the events of the last fortnight will be what Collymore needs to get his act together and rediscover his past good form.

When I say past I mean the distant past as it has been a long time since Collymore has strung two decent performances together. It seems like eons ago when Collymore bagged 23 goals in a season for Nottingham Forest and picked up a handful of England caps.

A good start for the big striker would be to look at how his stomping victim Paul Gascoigne has applied himself since being thrown a lifeline by Walter Smith and Everton. Mmmm, or perhaps not. Gazza has definitely done well this season but one wonders how long it will be before he does another Gazza?

*****

The 2002 World Cup qualifiers get under way this week with England hosting big rival Germany at Wembley. Boss Kevin Keegan has named a reasonably well balanced squad that includes the usual suspects from recent campaigns as well some of the country's premier young players.

Joe Cole, Jamie Carragher, Steven Gerrard, Gareth Barry and Keiron Dyer, along with the in form Michael Owen, are the future nucleus of the England side but Keegan will be unsure of how much of a role they should play in the qualifiers.

Most of the youngsters should see some action at some point but Keegan will probably start with much the same crew which flopped so badly at Euro 2000.

*****

Usually one or two of the Premier League's promoted sides are dead certs to slip straight back down to Division One. This season's contenders are doing their best to reverse this trend. Charlton Athletic have looked particularly impressive with two new signings, midfielder Claus Jensen and ex-Rangers striker Jonaton Johansson, standing out.

Ipswich Town and Manchester City have also had some solid early results and none of the three sides appear too out of their depth like Watford did last year. All of this spells danger for the likes of Coventry, Derby County and Bradford City.

ITALIAN 2000

A club-by-club preview of all 18 teams

THE TRANSFERS

All transfers in $US

Atalanta:
In:
Nicola Ventola (forward) Inter Milan loan Maurizio Ganz (forward) AC Milan loan
Out:
Nicola Caccia (midfielder) Piacenza $300,000 Corrado Colombo (forward) Inter $1.1 million

Bari:
In:
Jaime Gonzalez (forward) Colo Colo, Chile $1.4 million Giuseppe Mazzarelli (midfielder) Grasshoppers, Switzerland $300,000 Oscar Ayala (defender) Tacuary, Paraguay $450,000
Out:
Matteo Ferrari (Inter) free

Bologna:
In:
Tomas Locatelli (midfielder) Udinese $9.1 million Francisco Lima (midfielder) Lecce $3.4 million Ricardo Cruz (forward) Feyenoord, Netherlands $11.4 million
Out:
Michele Paramatti (midfielder) Juventus $3.7 million Klas Ingesson (forward) Olympique Marseille, France $2.3 million Kennet Andersson (forward) Fenerbahce $4.8 million

Brescia:
In:
Roberto Baggio (forward) Inter Milan free Pavel Srnicek (goalkeeper) Sheffield Wednesday free Raul Gonzales (forward) Atletico Rafaela, Argentina $1.8 million Aimo Diana (defender) Verona $1.8 million Pierluigi Orlandini (midfielder) AC Milan free
Out:
Giovanni Stroppa (midfielder) Genoa $1.75 million Fabrizio Zanoncelli (defender) Genoa $800,000

Fiorentina:
In:
Salilou Lassissi (defender) Parma, loan Amaral (midfielder) Benfica $3.2 million Leandro (forward) Portuguesa, Brazil, $9.1 million Nuno Gomes (forward) Benfica, $14.6 million Marco Rossi (midfielder) Salernitana $7.3 million Paolo Vanoli (defender) $4.6 million Domenico Morfeo (midfielder) Verona (returns from loan)
Out:
Gabriel Batistuta (forward) AS Roma $32 million Abel Balbo (forward) AS Roma $900,000 Joerg Heinrich (defender) Borussia Dortmund $5.9 million

Inter Milan:
In:
Francisco Farinos (midfielder) Valencia $16.4 million Hakan Sukur (forward) Galatasaray, Turkey $5.5 million Corrado Colombo (forward) Atalanta $1.1 million Sebastien Frey (goalkeeper) Verona, returns from loan Cristian Brocchi (defender) Verona, $6.8 million Matteo Ferrari (defender) Bari, free Bruno Cirillo (defender) Reggina, $5.9 million Fabio Macellari (defender) Cagliari, $6.8 million Sixto Peralta (midfielder) Racing Avellaneda, Argentina $3.2 million Robbie Keane (forward) Coventry City, England $17.1 million Michele Serena (defender) Parma $6.8 million Vampeta (midfielder) Corinthians, Brazil $13.7 million
Out:
Ze Elias (midfielder) Olympiakos, Greece $5.5 million Angelo Peruzzi (goalkeeper) Lazio $15.1 million Adrian Mutu (forward) Verona $3.7 million Grigorios Georgatos (defender) Olympiakos $5.9 million Francesco Moriero (midfielder) Napoli $3.7 million Paulo Sousa (midfielder) Panathinaikos, Greece $1.8 million Christian Panucci (defender) Chelsea, England loan

Juventus:
In:
Fabian O'Neill (midfielder) Cagliari $10.5 million Michele Paramatti (defender) Bologna $3.7 million Marco Zanchi (defender) Udinese $6.8 million David Trezeguet (forward) Monaco $18.3 million
Out:
Nicola Amoruso (forward) Napoli $4.1 million Sunday Oliseh (utility) Borussia Dortmund, Germany $6.8 million Zoran Mirkovic (defender) Fenerbahce, Turkey $2.3 million

Lazio:
In:
Hernan Crespo (forward) Parma $50.2 million Claudio Lopez (forward) Valencia $24.7 million Angelo Peruzzi (goalkeeper) Inter $15.1 million Francesco Colonnese (defender) Inter $2.7 million Roberto Baronio (midfielder) Reggina $4.7 million Emmanuele Pesaresi (defender) $2.5 million
Out:
Mattias Almeyda (midfielder) Parma, part-exchange Sergio Conceicao (midfielder) Parma, part-exchange Alen Boksic (forward) Middlesbrough, England $4.1 million

Lecce:
In:
Diego Mateo (midfielder) Newell's Old Boys, Argentina $1.4 Davor Vugrinec (midfielder) Trabzonspor, Turkey $400,000 Aldo Pedro Osorio (forward) Argentinos Juniors $2.7
Out:
Francisco Lima (midfielder) Bologna $3.4 million David Sesa (forward) Napoli $7.3 million

AC Milan:
In:
Gianni Comandini (forward) Vicenza $5.5 million Roque Junior (defender) Palmeiras, Brazil, $9.1 million Fernando Redondo (midfielder) Real Madrid $11.4 million Francesco Coco (midfielder) returns from loan
Out:
Bruno N'Gotty (defender) Olympique Marseille, undisclosed Maurizio Ganz (forward) Atalanta loan Pierluigi Orlandini (midfielder) Brescia loan Fabian Ayala (defender) Valencia $4.3 million

Napoli:
In:
Nicola Amoruso (forward) Juventus $4.1 million Jose Vidigal (midfielder) Sporting Lisbon $5 million Marek Jankulovski (midfielder) Banik Ostrava, Czech Rep $1.8 million Francesco Moriero (midfielder) Inter Milan $3.7 million Salvatore Fresi (defender) Inter Milan free David Sesa (forward) Lecce $7.3 million
Out:
Stefan Schwoch (forward) Torino $4.9 million

Parma:
In:
Patrick Mboma (forward) Cagliari $5.5 million Mattias Almeyda (midfielder) Lazio, part-exchange Sergio Conceicao (midfielder) Lazio, part-exchange Johan Micoud (midfielder) Bordeaux, France $6.8 million Savo Milosevic (forward) Real Zaragoza, Spain $22.8 million Junior (midfielder) Palmeiras, Brazil $5.9 million
Out:
Mario Stanic (midfielder) Chelsea $8.2 million Hernan Crespo (forward) Lazio $50.2 million Paolo Vanoli (defender) Fiorentina $4.6 million Michele Serena (midfielder) Inter $6.8 million Ariel Ortega (midfielder) River Plate, Argentina $5.7 million

Perugia:
In:
Cristian Bucchi (forward) Vicenza $1 million Ma Ming Yu (midfielder) Sichuan, China $500,000 Ahn Jung Wan (midfielder) Puzan Icons, South Korea, free
Out:
Milan Rapaijc (forward) Fenerbahce $4.6 million Dimitri Alenichev (forward) Porto $3.7 million Renato Olive (midfielder) Bologna $3.2 million

Reggina:
In:
Massimo Marazzina (forward) Chievo $2.5 million Andrea Zanchetti (midfielder) Chievo $1.4 million Massimo Taibi (goalkeeper) Manchester United, England $4.1 million Jose Mamede (midfielder) Vitoria $1.4 million
Out:
Roberto Baronio (midfielder) Lazio $4.6 million Bruno Cirillo (defender) Inter $5.9 million Andrea Pirlo (midfielder) Inter, end of loan spell Mohammed Kallon (forward) Vicenza $10 million

AS Roma:
In:
Gabriel Batistuta (forward) Fiorentina $32 million Samuel (defender) Boca Juniors $16 million Emerson (midfielder) Bayer Leverkusen $20.1 million Jonathan Zebina (defender) Cagliari $4.6 million
Out:
Vagner (midfielder) Celta Vigo, Spain $4.6 million Gustavo Bartelt (forward) Rayo Vallecano free

Udinese:
In:
Christian Diaz (midfielder) Independiente, Argentina $1.4 million Johan Walem (midfielder) Parma, free Luis Helguera (midfielder) Real Zaragoza $200,000
Out:
Tomas Locatelli (midfielder) Bologna $9.1 million Marco Zanchi (defender) Juventus $6.8 million

Verona:
In:
Adrian Mutu (forward) Inter Milan $3.7 million Mario Cvitanovic (defender) Venezia $1.8 million
Out:
Sebastien Frey (goalkeeper) Inter, end of loan Fabrizio Cammaarata (forward) Cagliari $6.4 million Cristian Brocchi (defender) Inter $6.8 million Aimo Diana (defender) Brescia $1.8 million Dominco Morfeo (midfielder) Fiorentina free

Vicenza:
In:
Stjepan Tomas (defender) Dinamo Zagreb $1.8 million Mohammed Kallon (forward) Reggina $4.6 million Luca Toni (forward) Treviso $1.8 million
Out:
Gianni Comandini (forward) AC Milan $4.6 million Cristian Bucchi (forward) Perugia $1 million

With the Italian Serie A kicking off over the weekend ABSW takes a comprehensive look at every club, every transfer and every team's prospects. (last season's finish in brackets).

ATALANTA (Promoted from Serie B)
Coach Giovanni Vavassori has signed veteran former Inter and AC Milan striker Maurizio Ganz and Italy Under-21 striker Nicola Ventola.

Atalanta have kept hold of key players from the side that gained promotion from Serie B but it remains to be seen if they have the class to survive in the top flight.

BARI (14) Bari narrowly avoided relegation last season and it is hard to see them staying out of the dogfight this year.

All eyes will be on 18-year-old striker Antonio Cassano who has been dubbed the "new Roberto Baggio" after impressing during his debut season.

BOLOGNA (11)
Argentine Ricardo Cruz has been brought from Feyenoord to partner Beppe Signori in attack, while Tomas Locatelli, regarded as one of the most promising young midfielders in Italy, has been prised away from Udinese.

BRESCIA (Promoted from Serie B)
New coach Carlo Mazzone pulled off the transfer coup of the summer in persuading Roberto Baggio to sign a two-year deal with the northern club, boosting hopes of Serie A survival.

Powerful right-back Aimo Diana is back at the club after a season with Verona and the pacey Argentine winger Raul Gonzalez looks likely to cause some problems for opposition defences.

FIORENTINA (7) Gabriel Batistuta's departure to AS Roma after nine seasons in Florence marks the end of an era and new Turkish coach Fatih Terim will be under intense pressure from the off.

Terim will build his side around Portuguese playmaker Rui Costa, but it remains to be seen if Costa's compatriot Nuno Gomes will be able to reproduce Batistuta's goals.

Transfer coup: Roberto Baggio signs for Brescia.

SERIE A

2001

fighting for this season's Scudetto

Robbie Keane: The young Irishman has impressed so far in Milan.

INTER MILAN (4) It is now 11 years since Inter's last title and it was another chaotic summer of transfers for Inter president Massimo Moratti with 21 players leaving the club and 19 moving to the San Siro.

Irish striker Robbie Keane and Turk Hakan Sukur will lead the line for the opening weeks.

JUVENTUS (2) Carlo Ancelotti's starting 11, built around Zinedine Zidane, will be identical but the squad has been strengthened with the addition of David Trezeguet from Monaco and Uruguayan international Fabian O'Neill from Cagliari.

LAZIO (1)

If there was one thing missing from Sven Goran Eriksson's league and cup double winning side it was a genuine goalscorer but the acquisition of Argentine forward Hernan Crespo from Parma should remedy the situation.

LECCE (13) The loss of Francesco Lima to Bologna and Swiss striker David Sesa to Napoli appears to have weakened Alberto Cavasin's squad and it is hard to see Lecce staying out of a relegation struggle this time.

AC MILAN (3) Coach Alberto Zaccheroni must decide whether to trust the old guard for one last fling or whether to place the responsibility on young players like Massimo Ambrosini, Francesco Coco and Gianni Comandini.

The goals of Andriy Shevchenko should guarantee Milan remain in the hunt but the man who could make the difference is classy Argentine Fernando Redondo, signed in the summer from Real Madrid.

NAPOLI (Promoted from Serie B)

Combative Portuguese midfielder Jose Vidigal has been drafted in from Sporting Lisbon and Swiss winger David Sesa from Lecce will add some pace to an attack which will be led by former Juventus forward Nicola Amoruso.

PARMA (5) Midfielders Mattias Almeyda and Sergio Conceicao from Lazio, and Brazilian Junior from Palmeiras will give the Parma midfield a new look.

Yugoslav Savo Milosevic, top scorer at Euro 2000, will be partnered by fit-again Marcio Amoroso, top scorer in Serie A in 1999.

PERUGIA (10) A collection of budget basement signings from the lower divisions have failed to convince many that Perugia will be doing much more than fighting for top flight survival.

REGGINA (11) An impressive first season in Serie A for Reggina will be a hard act to follow.

Italian Under-21 internationals Roberto Baronio and Andrea Pirlo have departed to Inter and Lazio respectively and top scorer Mohammed Kallon has been snapped up by Vicenza.

AS ROMA (6) The arrival of Gabriel Batistuta from Fiorentina gives coach Fabio Capello and abundance of riches in attack.

Although the other major summer signing, Brazilian Emerson, will miss the first half of the season, Francesco Totti should be able to provide Batistuta with plenty of ammunition.

UDINESE (8) The team will be built around playmaker Stefano Fiore, who showed his class for Italy at Euro 2000, while Dane Martin Jorgensen provides pace and aggression on the right flank.

If Argentine striker Roberto Sosa finally rediscovers his scoring touch Udinese could again be competing for a UEFA Cup spot, if not it looks like midtable.

VERONA (9) The surprise package of last season, Verona have lost outstanding French goalkeeper Sebastien Frey who has returned to Inter Milan, but have gained Romanian international Adrian Mutu from Inter.

Croatian full back Mario Cvitanovic has been brought in from Venezia but the loss of coach Claudio Prandelli to the same club means there is an element of the unknown this season.

VICENZA (Promoted from Serie B)

Sierra Leone striker Mohammed Kallon did well for Reggina last season but he may find himself isolated this year as Vicenza boss Edoardo Reja battens down the hatches for the long fight against the drop.

Alessandro Del Piero: His touch coming back may well secure the scudetto.

Gabriel Batistuta: After nine years in Florence he has moved to Roma under coach Fabio Capello.

HOW THEY FINISHED 1999-2000

SERIE A LEAGUE TABLE

		HOME					AWAY				GOALS			
	PT	P	W	D	L	P	W	D	L	P	W	D	L	F	A
1. Lazio	72	34	21	9	4	17	13	4	0	17	8	5	4	64	33
2. Juventus	71	34	21	8	5	17	14	2	1	17	7	6	4	46	20
3. Milan	61	34	16	13	5	17	10	6	1	17	6	7	4	65	40
4. Inser	58	34	17	7	10	17	10	4	3	17	7	3	7	58	36
5. Parma	58	34	16	10	8	17	10	4	3	17	6	6	5	52	37
6. Roma	54	34	14	12	8	17	10	5	2	17	4	7	6	57	34
7. Fiorentina	51	34	13	12	9	17	10	5	2	17	3	7	7	48	38
8. Udinese	50	34	13	11	10	17	9	4	4	17	4	7	6	55	45
9. Verona	43	34	10	13	11	17	8	6	3	17	2	7	8	40	45
10. Perugia	42	34	12	6	16	17	7	4	6	17	5	2	10	36	52
11. Bologna	40	34	9	13	12	17	8	5	4	17	1	8	8	32	39
12. Reggina	40	34	9	13	12	17	6	7	4	17	3	6	8	31	42
13. Lecce	40	34	10	10	14	17	9	5	3	17	1	5	11	33	49
14. Bari	39	34	10	9	15	17	6	9	2	17	4	0	13	34	48
15. Torino	36	34	8	12	14	17	6	5	6	17	2	7	8	35	47
16. Venezia	26	34	6	8	20	17	6	5	6	17	0	3	14	30	60
17. Cagliari	22	34	3	13	18	17	3	7	7	17	0	6	11	29	54
18. Piacenza	21	34	4	9	21	17	3	7	7	17	1	2	14	19	45

WORLD

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

GROUP A

Spartak Moscow	2	Bayer Leverkusen	0
Sporting	2	Real Madrid	2
Real Madrid	1	Spartak Moscow	0
Bayer Leverkusen	3	Sporting	2

Bayer Leverkusen 2 — Schneider 27, Ballack 44
Real Madrid 3 — Carlos 32, 75, Guti 69

Spartak Moscow 3 — Robson 43, Marcao 67, 81
Sporting 1 — Sa Pinto 24

Table

Real Madrid	3	2	1	0	6	4	7
Spartak Moscow	3	2	0	1	5	2	6
Bayer Leverkusen	3	1	0	2	5	7	3
Sporting	3	0	1	2	5	8	1

REMAINING FIXTURES:
Tuesday, October 17
Real Madrid v Bayer Leverkusen
Sporting v Spartak Moscow

Wednesday, October 25
Bayer Leverkusen v Spartak Moscow
Real Madrid v Sporting Lisbon

Tuesday, November 7
Spartak Moscow v Real Madrid
Sporting v Bayer Leverkusen

GROUP B

Sparta Prague	0	Arsenal	1
Shakhtar Donetsk	0	Lazio	3
Arsenal	3	Shakhtar Donetsk	2
Lazio	3	Sparta Prague	0

Arsenal 2 — Ljungberg 43, 56
Lazio 0

Sparta Prague 3 — Sparta Rosicky 54, Hornak 73, Jarosik 82
Shakhtar Donetsk 2 — Zubov 56, Abramov 84

Table

Arsenal	3	3	0	0	6	2	9
Lazio	3	2	0	1	6	2	6
Sparta Prague	3	1	0	2	3	6	3
Shakhtar Donetsk	3	0	0	3	4	9	0

REMAINING FIXTURES:
Tuesday, October 17
Lazio v Arsenal
Shakhtar Donetsk v Sparta Prague

Wednesday, October 25
Arsenal v Sparta Prague
Lazio v Shakhtar Donetsk

Tuesday, November 7
Sparta Prague v Lazio
Shakhtar Donetsk v Arsenal

GROUP C

Valencia	2	Olympiakos	1
Olympique Lyon	3	Heerenveen	1
Heerenveen	0	Valencia	1
Olympiakos	2	Olympique Lyon	1

Olympiakos 2 — Giovanni 52, 69
Heerenveen 0

Valencia 1 — Zahovic 78
Olympique Lyon 0

Table

Valencia	3	3	0	0	4	1	9
Olympiakos	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Olympique Lyon	3	1	0	2	4	4	3
Heerenveen	3	0	0	3	1	6	0

REMAINING FIXTURES:
Tuesday, October 17
Heerenveen v Olympiakos
Olympique Lyon v Valencia

Wednesday, October 25
Olympiakos v Valencia
Heerenveen v Olympique Lyon

Tuesday, November 7
Valencia v Heerenveen
Olympique Lyon v Olympiakos

GROUP D

Galatasaray	3	Monaco	2
Rangers	5	Sturm Graz	0
Sturm Graz	3	Galatasaray	0
Monaco	0	Rangers	1

Monaco 5 — Simone 13, 38, 41, Farnerud 76, Nonda 84
Sturm Graz 0

Galatasaray 3 — Akin 52, Unsal 57, Jardel 70
Rangers 2 — Kanchelskis 72, van Bronckhorst 90

Table

Galatasaray	3	2	0	1	6	7	6
Rangers	3	2	0	1	8	3	6
Monaco	3	1	0	2	7	4	3
Sturm Graz	3	1	0	2	3	10	3

REMAINING FIXTURES:
Tuesday, October 17
Sturm Graz v Monaco
Rangers v Galatasaray

Wednesday, October 25
Monaco v Galatasaray
Sturm Graz v Rangers

Tuesday, November 7
Galatasaray v Sturm Graz
Rangers v Monaco

GROUP E

Hamburg SV	4	Juventus	4
Panathinaikos	1	Deportivo Coruna	1
Juventus	2	Panathinaikos	1
Deportivo Coruna	2	Hamburg SV	1

Juventus 0 — **Deportivo Coruna 0**

Hamburg SV 0 — **Panathinaikos 1** — Nassiopoulos 37

Table

Juventus	3	1	2	0	6	5	5
Deportivo Coruna	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Panathinaikos	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Hamburg SV	3	0	1	2	5	7	1

REMAINING FIXTURES:
Wednesday, October 18
Deportivo Coruna v Juventus
Panathinaikos v Hamburg SV

Tuesday, October 24
Juventus v Hamburg SV
Deportivo Coruna v Panathinaikos

Wednesday, November 8
Hamburg SV v Deportivo Coruna
Panathinaikos v Juventus

GROUP F

R'borg Trondheim	3	Paris St Germain	1
Helsingborg	1	Bayern Munich	3
Bayern Munich	3	R'borg Trondheim	1
Paris St Germain	4	Helsingborg	1

Paris St Germanin 1 — Leroy 90
Bayern Munich 0

R'borg Trondheim 6 — Johnsen 20, 29 & 78, Strand 50, 51, Johansen 64og.
Helsingborg 1 — Prica 90

Table

R'borg Trondheim	3	2	0	1	10	5	6
Paris St Germain	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Bayern Munich	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
Helsingborg	3	0	0	3	3	13	0

REMAINING FIXTURES:
Wednesday, October 18
Bayern Munich v Paris St Germain
Helsingborg v Rosenborg Trondheim

Tuesday, October 24
Paris St Germain v Rosenborg Trondheim
Bayern Munich v Helsingborg

Wednesday, November 8
Rosenborg Trondheim v Bayern Munich
Helsingborg v Paris St Germain

GROUP G

PSV Eindhoven	2	Dynamo Kiev	1
Manchester United	5	Anderlecht	1
Anderlecht	1	PSV Eindhoven	0
Dynamo Kiev	0	Manchester Utd	0

Dynamo Kiev 4 — Husin 52, Shatskikh 80, Demetradze 89, 90
Anderlecht 0

PSV Eindhoven 3 — Bouma 17, van Bommel 38, Kezman 64
Manchester Utd 1 — Scholes 3pen

Table

PSV Eindhoven	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Dynamo Kiev	3	1	1	1	5	2	4
Manchester United	3	1	1	1	6	4	4
Anderlecht	3	1	0	2	2	9	3

REMAINING FIXTURES:
Wednesday, October 18
Anderlecht v Dynamo Kiev
Manchester United v PSV Eindhoven

Tuesday, October 24
Dynamo Kiev v PSV Eindhoven
Anderlecht v Manchester United

Wednesday, November 8
PSV Eindhoven v Anderlecht
Manchester United v Dynamo Kiev

GROUP H

Barcelona	4	Leeds United	0
AC Milan	4	Besiktas	1
Besiktas	3	Barcelona	0
Leeds United	1	AC Milan	0

Leeds United 6 — Bowyer 7, 90, Viduka 12, Matteo 22, Bakke 65, Huckerby 90
Besiktas 0

Barcelona 0 — Coco 45, Bierhoff 71
AC Milan 2

Table

Leeds United	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
AC Milan	3	2	0	1	6	2	6
Besiktas	3	1	0	2	4	10	3
Barcelona	3	1	0	2	4	5	3

REMAINING FIXTURES:
Wednesday, October 18
Besiktas v Leeds United
AC Milan v Barcelona

Tuesday, October 24
Leeds United v Barcelona
Besiktas v AC Milan

Wednesday, November 8
Barcelona v Besiktas
AC Milan v Leeds United

SECOND ROUND

Four Groups of Four

QUARTER-FINAL

First Leg — April 3/4
Second Leg — April 17/18

SEMI-FINAL

First Leg — May 1/2
Second Leg — May 8/9

FINAL

Wednesday, May 23
In Milan

WORLD

FIFA World Rankings

(Valid until October 11)

1	Brazil	70	Bolivia	138	Grenada
2	France	71	Kuwait	139	Lesotho
3	Argentina	72	Uzbekistan	140	Rwanda
4	Czech Republic	73	China PR	141	Tanzania
5	Spain	74	Bosnia-Herzegovina	142	Ethiopia
6	Italy	75	Burkina Faso	143=	Bangladesh
7	Portugal	76	Cuba	143=	Benin
8	Yugoslavia	77	Estonia	143=	Liechtenstein
9	Germany	78	Guinea	146	St Kitts & Nevis
10	Netherlands	79	Armenia	147	Korea DPR
11	Norway	80	Algeria	148	Antigua & Barbuda
11	Romania	81	Iraq	149	Andorra
13	Mexico	82	Namibia	150	Bermuda
14	England	83=	Gabon	151	Botswana
15	Croatia	83=	Haiti	152	Gambia
16	Paraguay	83=	Senegal	153	Maldives
17	Colombia	86	Latvia	154	Sri Lanka
18	Denmark	87	FYR Macedonia	155	Dominican Rep
19	United States	88	Albania	156	Cape Verde Islands
20	Chile	89	Mali	157	Mauritania
21	Sweden	90	Togo	158	Yemen
22=	Scotland	91=	New Zealand	159	Cayman Islands
22=	South Africa	91=	Qatar	160	Dominica
24	Russia	93	Congo	161	Chinese Taipei
25	Belgium	94	El Salvador	162	Nepal
26=	Morocco	95	Liberia	163	Chad
26=	Tunisia	96	Northern Ireland	164	Eritrea
28	Slovakia	97	Moldova	165	Surinam
29	Trinidad & Tobago	98	Syria	166	Laos
30	Turkey	99	Barbados	167	San Marino
31	Egypt	100	Belarus	168	Vanuatu
32	Uruguay	101	Uganda	169	Palestine
33	Greece	102	Indonesia	170	Cook Islands
34	Cameroon	103	Jordan	171	British Virgin Is
35	Israel	104	Malaysia	172	Kyrgyzstan
36=	Poland	105=	Mozambique	173=	Netherlands Antilles
36=	Slovenia	105=	Singapore	173=	Samoa
38=	Ireland Republic	105=	Venezuela	175	Guinea-Bissau
38=	Jamaica	108=	Kenya	176	Central African Rep.
38=	Peru	108=	Oman	177	Niger
38=	Ukraine	110	Lebanon	178	Macao
42=	Austria	111	Vietnam SR	179	Sao Tome e Principe
42=	Korea Republic	112	Azerbaijan	180=	Bahamas
44	Iran	113	Wales	180=	Cambodia
45	Zambia	114	Malawi	182	Guyana
46	Honduras	115	Madagascar	183	Philippines
47	Finland	116	India	184	Tonga
48	Cote d' Ivoire	117	Faroe Islands	185	Aruba
49	Hungary	118=	Kazakhstan	186	Belize
50	Japan	118=	Mauritius	187	Equatorial Guinea
51	Angola	120	Malta	188	Seychelles
52	Iceland	121	Turkmenistan	189	Pakistan
53=	Ghana	122	Panama	190	Nicaragua
53=	Nigeria	123	Libya	191	Papua New Guinea
55	Costa Rica	124	St Vincent/Gr	192	Djibouti
56	Bulgaria	125	Hong Kong	193	Brunei Darussalam
57	Thailand	126	Sierra Leone	194	Puerto Rico
58=	Canada	127	Sudan	195	Somalia
58=	UAE	128	Myanmar	196	US Virgin Islands
60=	Ecuador	129	St Lucia	197	Mongolia
60=	Switzerland	130	Tahiti	198	Anguilla
62	Guatemala	131	Solomon Islands	199	Turks and Caicos Is
63	Saudi Arabia	132	Bahrain	200	Bhutan
64	Zimbabwe	133	Swaziland	201	Guam
65	Cyprus	134	Burundi	202	Montserrat
66	Congo DR	135	Tajikistan	203	American Samoa
67=	AUSTRALIA	136	Fiji		
67=	Georgia	137	Luxemburg		
67=	Lithuania				

Note: Teams inactive since 1991 and teams which have not played yet to do not appear in the table.

Brazil sack Luxemburgo

Wanderley Luxemburgo has been fired from his job as Brazil's soccer coach it was reported over the weekend.

Luxemburgo was told of his dismissal when he met with Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) president Ricardo Teixeira at a Rio de Janeiro golf club.

Luxemburgo's future had been the subject of a fierce press speculation after Brazil's defeat to a nine-man Cameroon team in the quarter final of the Olympic tournament.

The CBF had promised to make an announcement about .

It was suggested an announcement of Luxemburgo's successor will not be made immediately, stating that assistant coach Candinho may manage Brazil on a caretaker basis.

Local newspapers have identified Cruzeiro boss Luiz Felipe Scolari as the most likely man to follow Luxemburgo.

"Big Phil", as Scolari is known, had highly successful coaching spells at Gremio and Palmeiras, and is seen as the fans' choice.

Also in the running is Atletico Mineiro boss Carlos Alberto Parreira who coached Brazil to victory in the 1994 World Cup tournament.

Dunga, who captained the 1994 team, has also been tipped as a possible coaching assistant.

Wanderley Luxemburgo: Sacked.

Luxemburgo held the Brazil job for two years after coaching Palmeiras, Corinthians and Flamengo.

He won the Copa America with Brazil in 1999 but alienated many fans with his erratic selection policies. Luxemburgo used over 70 players in 55 games and consequently failed to create a settled team.

Luxemburgo's popularity then plummeted when Brazil suffered unprecedented World Cup qualifying defeats against Paraguay and Chile.

His problems were exacerbated when a former secretary made explosive allegations about supposed tax evasion and commission-taking on player transfers.

Luxemburgo has denied the accusations and promised to sue for defamation.

Brazil's embarrassing exit from the Olympics was seen as the last straw for many fans frustrated by past failures to win gold.

Leicester agree to let Collymore go

The controversial career of Stan Collymore took another twist last week when he was transfer-listed by Leicester City.

Leicester manager Peter Taylor confirmed the Premier League club was willing to release the former England striker immediately on a free transfer.

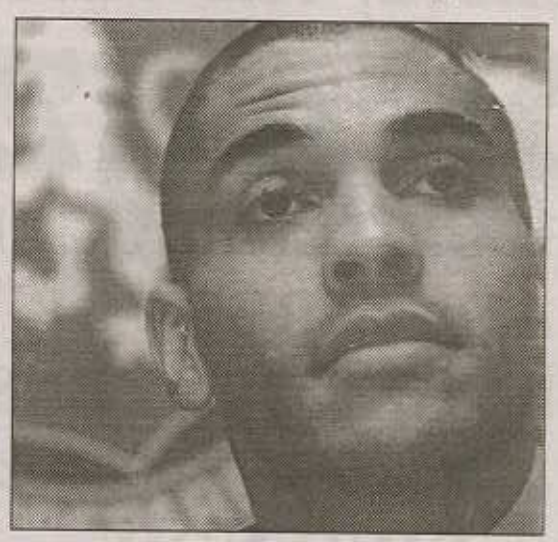
He also revealed that Collymore would not be travelling with the club to Austria for the UEFA Cup first round, second leg match against Red Star Belgrade which is being played at a neutral venue in Vienna.

Taylor admitted Collymore's performance in the recent 1-1 draw with Everton had been the "final straw".

"Stan would have to change in many ways to ever play for Leicester City again and I would be surprised if I played him again," said Taylor.

Collymore confirmed he had asked for a transfer after failing to agree to an improved contract. He said he was also unhappy about starting the previous six games on the substitutes' bench.

Collymore joined Leicester in February following turbulent spells with Aston Villa and Liverpool.



Stan Collymore: Transfer listed.

He cost Liverpool a then British transfer record of 8.5 million pounds ($21.25m) in July 1995 before joining Villa for a club record 7 million pounds ($17.5m) two years later.

But after undergoing treatment for clinical depression he started last season on loan with Fulham and failed to win back his first team place at Villa Park.

He scored a hat-trick against Sunderland on his home debut for Leicester in March but then broke his leg at Derby the following month.

"I was really hoping everything would go well for Stan after the way he started pre-season training," said Taylor who took over as Leicester manager in June after Martin O'Neill left for Celtic.

"But a week before the season started his advisers contacted us and asked for very high wage demands and a new contract which we were unable to agree to.

"Ever since that day I have felt his performance and application has not been the same as in pre-season. That is why he has not been in our starting line-up.

"I think Stan was very disappointed not to be in the team and he made it obvious on the pitch when he went on in the second half that he was not happy."

The Football Association (FA) confirmed last week that its video advisory panel would meet this week to review Collymore's clash with Paul Gascoigne at the end of the game with Everton.

Collymore appeared to stamp on Gascoigne's hand and then lash out with an arm.

Players attacked in Spanish Third Division Derby

Players of Spanish third division side Xerez were attacked by rival supporters at the end of the local derby against San Fernando in Andalucia.

Xerez goalkeeper Ramon came in for the harshest treatment.

He was thrown to the ground and kicked when the San Fernando fans invaded the pitch after their team had won 1-0.

"I was on my way to the changing rooms when a group of fans attacked me from behind," Ramon said. "I tried to defend myself but they threw me to the ground and started kicking me."

The goalkeeper had to receive treatment at the ground for minor cuts and bruises.

Police later made a number of arrests and Xerez announced they would be pressing charges against the fans involved.

Two hours earlier the Cadiz president was attacked by "fans" of his own club before the third division match against Guadix.

Dundee set to sign Caniggia

Former Argentine World Cup striker Claudio Caniggia could sign for Dundee of the Scottish Premier League last week, local media reported.

Caniggia, 33, who played for Argentina in the 1990 and 1994 World Cups, is expected to hold talks with Dundee's Italian manager Ivano Bonetti.

British newspapers reported that Bonetti, who narrowly failed to secure Caniggia's services during the off-season, wants the former Boca Juniors striker as cover for injured compatriot Fabian Caballero.

Caballero, due to undergo surgery, is expected to be out of action until late January at the earliest after being injured in the local derby against Dundee United last week.

Caniggia, a free agent, helped Atalanta win promotion to Italy's serie A last season. It was his second spell at the Bergamo club that he first joined from Verona in 1989.

Dundee are fifth in the Premier League standings.

Claudio Caniggia: Off to Scotland.

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EU competition chief sees compromise on transfer rules

The European Union's competition chief Mario Monti said last week he was optimistic of reaching agreement with the soccer authorities on a new transfer system which would keep all sides satisfied.

Following a meeting with representatives of top European clubs, EU Competition Commissioner Monti sought to dispel media reports that the Commission wants to abolish the disputed system completely and said he recognised the special status of sport.

"The Commission has no desire to abolish the existing system altogether, it fully recognises the specificity of sport and it believes it is possible to have a transfer system that meets the need of football while respecting fundamental principles of European Union law," Monti's office said in a statement.

Soccer's governing bodies and the Commission have moved closer together over recent weeks following a bitter dispute which has dragged on for almost two years and led Monti to threaten to outlaw the current transfer system unless FIFA and UEFA agreed to alter it drastically.

The Commission argues that FIFA's regulations break European rules on fair competition and abuse workers' rights to freedom of movement.

Soccer chiefs say banning the current system would throw the game into chaos but, under pressure from the Commission, have pledged to come up with proposals by the end of October to prevent the transfer system being banned.

"The Commission is open for dialogue on how best to modify the FIFA rules in a way that encourages the training of young players and provides for a greater solidarity between the big and the small clubs," the statement said.

FIFA has suggested allowing the free movement of players over the age of 24 and ending transfers for under 18-year-olds but said clubs should be able to seek compensation for the transfer of players of between 18 and 24.

It has set up a joint task force with national leagues, teams and players to draft detailed plans for the Commission's perusal.

The Commission said the football clubs were anxious to be "closely associated to ongoing discussions".

There have been suggestions that FIFA has failed to keep other leading soccer organisations informed of developments in its dispute with Brussels.

The meeting was attended by Bayern Munich vice-president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, Ajax president Michel van Praag, Manchester United chief executive Peter Kenyon, Jose Luis del Valle and Jose Luis Lopez Serrano, respectively Real Madrid vice-president and head of football and AC Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani.

ASTON VILLA REJECT BID FOR EHIOGU

Aston Villa have turned down an estimated nine million pounds ($22.5m) bid from Premier League rivals Middlesbrough for central defender Ugo Ehiogu.

Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson told the club's official Web site last week: "Villa have turned down our offer. They want more and it's stalemate now."

▲ Robson has given a trial to Cameroon under-21 central defender Lucien Mettomo, currently with French first division side St Etienne.

Mettomo's expected 4.6 million pounds ($11.5m) move to Blackburn Rovers collapsed last week when he failed a medical.

Robson said: "We are aware of the situation but we don't feel it can be that bad as the player has not missed any matches."

Ugo Ethiogu: Transfer denied.

Lazio pin hopes on Lopez and Crespo

Serie A, the league Italians call "the most beautiful championship in the world", returned to action over the weekend with the month's delay for the Olympics having merely heightened the anticipation.

The French are European champions and Spanish clubs dominated European club competitions last season but soccer fans in Italy believe Serie A's wealth, glamour and, most importantly, quality of football remain peerless.

In an age where clubs are marketed as products, Italian teams are well aware of the need to freshen their "brand" each season and this year is no exception, with the French and Spanish leagues the main targets.

Claudio Lopez, the Argentine who impressed for Valencia in last term's Champions League, brings his craft and guile to the attack of champions Lazio, along with the Italian record signing Hernan Crespo who was bought from Parma.

This combination makes the Rome club favourites again this term but Lazio's main rivals have also strengthened their squads.

AC Milan tried and failed to prise David Beckham from Manchester United and Rivaldo from Barcelona but settled on Argentine Redondo from Real Madrid to bring creativity to their already combative midfield.

Hernan Crespo: New Lazio Striker

French striker David Trezeguet, who broke Italian hearts in July with the golden goal that sank Italy in the Euro 2000 final, will have the benefit of compatriot Zinedine Zidane's passing on a weekly basis after leaving Monaco for Juventus.

Another star of Euro 2000, Portugal striker Nuno Gomes, has been handed the daunting task of replacing Gabriel Batistuta at Fiorentina.

The Florence club have applied the old Italian maxim of "if you can't beat them, buy them" by appointing Fatih Terim as their new coach after the Turk guided Galatasaray to the UEFA Cup crown last season.

Man Utd and Nike set to announce huge deal

English Premier League champions Manchester United confirmed last week they were in talks with a leading sportswear company after media reports said the club were close to signing a deal with Nike.

Industry sources said United were discussing a 300 million pounds ($750 million) 15-year deal with the U.S. sportswear giant that would earn the club 20 million pounds ($50m) a season.

A statement from the club did not confirm the details but said they were in discussions with a sportswear company.

"We are in discussions with lots of clubs at any given time as you would expect from a football brand the size of Nike, and that includes Manchester United, but we have not signed anything," said a Nike spokesman.

Reports say the deal will earn United 20 million pounds a season. Former world champions Brazil, current holders of the existing kit deal record, have an agreement worth $100 million ($250m)spanning a 10-year period.

Nike already endorses some United players, including Paul Scholes, Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke.

Umbro, which has made United's kits for the past eight years, said in a statement it was talking to the club about its situation beyond July 2002 when its current contract runs out.

In February, United signed a record-breaking 30 million pound ($75m) four-year sponsorship with the world's biggest mobile telecommunications company Vodafone Plc .

A spokesman for Vodafone said the group would not be affected by any deal between the club and Nike.

"We are the team's principle sponsors and that is illustrated by our name appearing on the shirt," the spokesman said.

Arsenal finally ready- Wenger

After two years of failure, Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger believes victory over Lazio shows his team are finally ready for success in the Champions League.

Europe's flagship competition has been a source of torment for the Premier League side in recent seasons.

Arsenal too often struggled in the 'home' matches played at Wembley stadium, dropped points by squandering winning leads and failed to make it past the first round.

But last weekis convincing 2-0 victory over the Italian double winners at Highbury — Arsenal's third win in three Group B matches — has silenced the Euro-sceptics and given the players a much-needed injection of self-confidence.

"I'm just pleased with the performance — we didn't disappoint the people who believe in us," Wenger said.

Arsene Wenger: "We are ready".

"We showed we can compete and beat a big team. Because I still think after the game that Lazio are a big team.

"Maybe they didn't expect as much resistance as they got tonight. But we did not only compete, we played well and could compete technically and tactically with Lazio."

According to Wenger, Arsenal's determination to win was rooted in those past failures and the taunt that they were not able to compete at the highest level.

"We have everything to prove," he said.

"I think we went into this competition thinking that last year we were not good enough, two years ago we were not good enough and the players really wanted to show we have the quality and the desire ... that we are good enough."

"And that's what the players showed tonight." Swedish international midfielder Fredrik Ljungberg, who scored both goals against Lazio, epitomised Arsenal's revival at Highbury.

"I'm pleased for him because I felt he was one of the players who's had problems

finding his game again this season," Wenger said.

"He was really sharp tonight, but in recent games he did not find a good tactical positions and he was not really dangerous."

Wenger believes that one more victory will seal Arsenal's place in the second group phase of the competition.

Daum will take up Germany job despite second thoughts

Bayer Leverkusen's Christoph Daum said he would take the job of German national coach next year despite having second thoughts and the launch of a fraud probe into his finances.

Daum said he would sign a three-year contract with the German Football Association (DFB) in the next few weeks.

"I am looking forward to the job. Everything is sorted out," he said.

Daum had suggested at the weekend he might not take up the national job as expected following his club's shaky start to the season and caretaker Rudi Voeller's runaway success with the national side in 2002 World Cup qualifiers.

Leverkusen manager Reiner Calmund added to the speculation over the weekend, saying his coach would do best to return to Turkey where Daum — famous for his unorthodox approach to motivating players — had a successful stint with Besiktas before joining Leverkusen.

State prosecutors in Cologne have confirmed they are investigating him for fraud and embezzlement after a former business associate accused the coach of owing him money from a property deal in Mallorca.

Christphe Daum: Taking the job.

The DFB said the case had changed nothing and they still wanted Daum to replace stand-in chief Rudi Voeller in eight months' time after seeing out his contract with Leverkusen.

TV GUIDE

 # All times are Australian Eastern Standard Summer Time

TUESDAY OCT 3
English Premier League
Highlights
Fox Sports
8am - 9am

Futbol Mundial
SBS TV
4pm - 4.30pm

WEDNESDAY OCT 4
Best of Olympic Soccer
Optus (C7 Sport 12)
6pm - 8.30pm

LG CUP 2000
Kuwait vs Australia
(LIVE)
SBS TV
2.15am - 4.15am
(Thursday Morning)

THURSDAY OCT 5
Soccer Scene
Fox Sports
4pm - 5.30pm

FRIDAY OCT 6
Soccer Scene
Fox Sports
9am - 10.30am

Fox Sports Gold
2000 FA Cup Final
Aston Villa vs Chelsea
Fox Sports
6pm - 7pm

SATURDAY OCT 7
GOL ESPN
Football Extra
Optus (ESPN)
9.30am - 10am

UEFA Champions League
SBS TV
3.30pm - 4.30pm

World Soccer
SBS TV
4.30pm - 5.30pm

English Premier League
Highlights
SBS TV
5.30pm - 6.30pm

Spanish Primera Liga
Fox Sports 2
5pm - 7pm

Us Major League
Semi Final No. 3
Optus (ESPN)
10pm - 12am

LG CUP 2000
Korea vs Australia (LIVE)
SBS TV
12am - 2am
(Sunday Morning)

World Cup Qualifier
England vs Germany
(LIVE)
12.55am - 3am
Optus (ESPN)
(Sunday Morning)

Spanish Primera Liga
Fox Sports
2am - 4am
(Sunday Morning)

SUNDAY OCT 8
Italian Serie A Highlights
SBS TV
10.30am - 11.30am

Best of the Olympics
Morocco vs Chile
Optus (C7 Sport 12)
12pm - 2pm

LG CUP 2000
Highlights of Both matches
SBS TV
12.30pm - 2.30pm

World Cup Qualifier
Cyprus vs Netherlands
Optus (ESPN)
1pm - 3pm

World Cup Qualifier
Czech Republic vs Iceland
Optus (ESPN)
3pm - 5pm

MONDAY OCT 9
World Cup Qualifier
Poland vs Belarus
Optus (ESPN)
8.30pm - 10.30pm

UEFA CUP FIRST ROUND

Rain farce sees Espanyol through

Espanyol	2
Olimpija Ljubljana	0

(Espanyol win 3-2 on agg)

Espanyol kept their concentration after a half-hour rain delay to clinch a 3-2 aggregate win over Olimpija Ljubljana and a place in the UEFA Cup second round amid scenes bordering on farce last week.

The second leg match at Barcelona's Olympic stadium had to be suspended because of a torrential downpour in the second half as players from both sides slid around the field.

Espanyol, who had turned round their 2-1 defeat from the first leg with goals from Martin Posse on 15 minutes and Manel 11 minutes later, held out comfortably after the restart.

Espanyol's Argentinian Martin Posse celebrates scoring against Olimpija Ljubljana.

Red Star too good

Red Star	3
Leicester	1

(Red Star win 4-2 on agg)

Goran Drulic scored twice as Red Star Belgrade beat Leicester City 3-1 in Vienna to reach the second round of the UEFA Cup with a 4-2 aggregate win.

Despite UEFA's decision to switch the first round second leg tie to a neutral venue because of the unstable political situation in Belgrade, thousands of Vienna-based Yugoslav fans created an intimidating atmosphere inside the Gerhard-Hanappi stadium.

Flares were thrown into the Leicester fans' section before kick-off and police had to move in to restore order as the stadium announcer appealed for calm.

Red Star made all the early running and deservedly took the lead in the 22nd minute. Goran Drulic, a constant menace up front, raced behind a flat-footed Leicester defence before shooting across goalkeeper Tim Flowers.

The game was briefly held up when flares were thrown onto the pitch by Red Star fans.

But they were silenced four minutes before half time when Leicester's Turkish international Muzzy Izzet equalised from close range to square the tie at 2-2.

Red Star's Goran Drulic somersaults after scoring his second against Leicester.

Red Star's incisive passing carved Leicester open again two minutes into the second half as Ivan Gvozdenovic restored their lead with a left-foot shot past Flowers.

Drulic finished off another flowing move in the 71st minute to give Red Star a two-goal advantage they

Chelsea crash out

St Gallen	2
Chelsea	0

(St Gallen win 2-1 on agg)

Chelsea midfielder Roberto Di Matteo broke his leg as Swiss champions St Gallen sent the struggling London side out of the UEFA Cup.

The Italian was carried off in the 29th minute of St Gallen's 2-0 first round, return leg, win — 2-1 on aggregate.

Sascha Mueller opened the scoring in the 19th minute after collecting a pass from Ghana's Charles Amoah and jinking past defender Franck Leboeuf before beating 'keeper Carlo Cudicini.

Chelsea, already playing without injured midfielders Dennis Wise and Mario Stanic, defender Marcel Desailly and 'keeper Ed De Goey, lost Di Matteo after a collision with defender Daniel Imhof.

Di Matteo fractured his lower leg in two places and he faced an operation, reports said.

Amoah converted a pass from Romanian Ionel Gane six minutes after Di Matteo was carried off, his left leg in an inflatable cast.

Largely ineffective in the first half, Chelsea turned up the pressure after halftime.

Chelsea's Roberto Di Matteo suffers an injury as he is consoled by Jody Morris.

But St Gallen keeper Joerg Stiel turned away a powerful shot by Di Matteo's replacement Samuele Dalla Bona soon after the interval and snatched the ball from Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's feet as he broke behind defenders minutes later.

Fiorentina shock exit

Fiorentina	2
Tirol Innsbruck	2

(Tirol win 3-5 on agg)

Italy's Fiorentina were surprisingly knocked out of the UEFA Cup after a 2-2 draw at home to Tirol Innsbruck gave the Austrian side a 5-3 aggregate win.

The Serie A club, 3-1 down from the first leg, suffered a crushing blow in the eighth minute when Markus Scharrer crossed for the unmarked Wolfgang Mairto to slot home to give Tirol the lead.

Fiorentina drew level on the night when Predrag Mijatovic curled home a free kick in the 26th minute.

After the break it was one-way traffic as the Florence club piled on the pressure in search of the two goals they needed to take the game into extra time.

Their pressure was rewarded in the 62nd minute when Daniele Adani saw his header parried and Brazilian Leandro nodded home from close range.

The goal prompted a wave of attacks from Fiorentina but their hopes were killed three minutes from time when Roland Kirchler led a break down the left and picked out Radoslav Gilewicz who made no mistake from close range.

Gilewicz was then shown the red card for an off-the-ball incident but his dismissal failed to dampen the celebrations of the Austrian champions.

Sutton is Celtic's Hero

HJK Helsinki	2
Celtic	1

(Celtic win 3-2 on agg)

Chris Sutton was Celtic's hero in Finland against HJK Helsinki, who overturned their 2-0 first leg deficit with a double strike by Paulus Roiha.

The Englishman swept in the decisive goal 18 minutes into extra time as Celtic lost 2-1 on the night, going through 3-2 on aggregate.

It was the Scottish side's first defeat of the season after eight successive wins under new manager Martin O'Neill.

Liverpool scrape through

Constantin Maldarasanu of Bucharest tackles Liverpool's Patrik Berger during the match at Anfield.

Liverpool	0
Rapid Bucharest	0

(Liverpool win 1-0 on agg)

Liverpool struggled into the second round of the UEFA Cup when they were held to a goalless draw at Anfield by Rapid Bucharest, wining 1-0 on aggregate.

Anghel Iordanescu's Romanian team frustrated Liverpool in the first half. They also looked threatening in attack with Daniel Pancu outstanding.

His strong running helped create Rapid's best opportunity early in the game but Pancu's shot from a tight angle was blocked by Sander Westerveld.

Liverpool almost took the lead seconds before the interval but Michael Owen wasted the chance by aiming his hurried effort too close to goalkeeper Razvan Lucescu.

Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier introduced Christian Ziege in the 50th minute and his play down the left flank created more openings, Robbie Fowler heading one cross straight at Lucescu.

Then Steven Gerrard saw his powerful shot flash just past the post in the 52nd minute.

UEFA CUP WRAP UP

Wisla Krakow of Poland also shocked Spanish side Real Zaragoza by winning 4-1 in Warsaw after losing the first leg by the same score.

After a goalless extra time the Poles completed an extraordinary recovery by winning a penalty shootout 4-3.

Roma thrashed Slovenian side Nova Gorica 7-0 for an 11-1 aggregate win. Vincenzo Montello and Francesco Totti both scored twice, while new Argentine signing Gabriel Batistuta was also on target for the Italian side.

A third Italian team, Inter Milan, also went through easily, Clarence Seedorf scoring twice in a 4-1 home win over Poland's Ruch Chorzow. Inter won 7-1 on aggregate.

Werder Bremen overturned a 2-0 first leg loss when they thrashed Turkey's Antalyaspor 6-0 in Germany. Ailton hif a 10-minute hat-trick for Werder.

VfB Stuttgart scraped through on away goals despite losing 3-2 at Scottish side Hearts.

The Germans, who won the first leg 1-0, played the last four minutes with nine men after having Silvio Meissner and Thomas Schneider sent off.

Portugal's Benfica failed to overturn a 2-1 first leg deficit against Sweden's Halmstad, drawing 2-2 on the night.

The Swedes' vital second goal on the night came three minutes from time from Stefan Selakovic.

A late goal by Ljubinko Drulovic gave Porto a 1-0 win against Partizan Belgrade in Oporto in a match delayed by floodlight failure midway through the second half. Porto won 2-1 on aggregate.

Ajax Amsterdam completed a 9-0 aggregate win over Belgian side Ghent with a 3-0 triumph in the Netherlands.

Emiliano Bonazzoli scored twice as Parma thumped Probeda Prilep of Macedonia 4-0 in Italy for a 6-0 aggregate win.

WORLD

WORLD RESULTS ... WORLD RESULTS ...

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Chelsea 3 Liverpool 0, Sunderland 0 Leicester City 0, Aston Villa 4 Derby County 1, Charlton Athletic 2 Coventry City 2, Everton 0 Ipswich Town 3, Leeds United 4 Tottenham Hotspur 3, Manchester City 0 Newcastle United 1, Southampton 1 Middlesbrough 3, West Ham United 1 Bradford City 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Leicester City	**8**	**4**	**4**	**0**	**7**	**2**	**16**
2. Man Utd	8	4	3	1	20	8	15
3. Arsenal	8	4	3	1	14	9	15
4. Newcastle Utd	8	4	1	3	8	7	13
5. Aston Villa	7	3	3	1	11	7	12
6. Charlton	8	3	3	2	14	13	12
7. Liverpool	8	3	3	2	12	13	12
8. Leeds Utd	7	3	2	2	11	9	11
9. Ipswich Town	8	3	2	3	11	10	11
10. Tottenham	8	3	2	3	11	11	11
11. Middlesbrough	8	2	4	2	14	12	10
12. Chelsea	8	2	4	2	13	12	10
13. Southampton	8	2	3	3	11	12	9
14. Sunderland	8	2	3	3	7	11	9
15. Everton	8	2	2	4	11	15	8
16. Man. City	8	2	2	4	10	14	8
17. Coventry City	8	2	2	4	8	14	8
18. West Ham Utd	8	1	4	3	10	11	7
19. Bradford City	8	1	3	4	4	12	6
20. Derby County	8	0	5	3	14	19	5

LEADING SCORERS
7 - Michael Owen (Liverpool)
6 - Marians Pahars (Southampton)
5 - Francis Jeffers (Everton), Alan Smith (Leeds), Alen Boksic (Middlesbrough), Thierry Henry (Arsenal)

ENGLISH FIRST DIVISION

Barnsley 2 Grimsby Town 0, Bolton Wanderers 0 Fulham Burnley 2, 1 Portsmouth 1, Gillingham 2 Sheff Wed 0, Norwich City 1 Huddersfield Town 1, Nottingham Forest 0 Wolverhampton Wanderers 0, Preston North End 2 Crystal Palace 0, Sheffield United 1 Queens Park Rangers 1, Tranmere Rovers 1 Crewe Alexandra 3, West Bromwich Albion 1 Blackburn Rovers Wimbledon 0, 2 Stockport County 0.

ENGLISH SECOND DIVISION

Brentford 3 Bournemouth 2,Bristol Rovers 3 Luton Town 3, Colchester United 0 Stoke City 1, Northampton Town 2 Wrexham 2, Oldham Athletic 1 Cambridge Utd 3, Oxford Utd 0 Bristol City 1, Peterborough Utd 1 Millwall 3, Port Vale 0 Wycombe Wanderers 1, Rotherham Utd 1 Reading 3, Swansea City 0 Bury 2, Swindon Town 2 Wigan Athletic 2, Walsall 5 Notts County 1.

ENGLISH THIRD DIVISION

Brighton & Hove Albion 2 Leyton Orient 0, Chesterfield 4 Macclesfield Town 1, Darlington 1 Carlisle United 0, Exeter City 0 Cheltenham Town 2, Halifax Town 0 Shrewsbury Town 0, Hartlepool Uted 1 York City 0, Hull City 2 Cardiff City 0, Lincoln City 0 Mansfield Town 2, Plymouth Argyle 2 Barnet 3, Rochdale 0 Southend Utd 1, Scunthorpe Utd 3 Torquay Uted 0.

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Aberdeen 1 Celtic 1, Hearts 3 Motherwell 0, Rangers 3 Dundee United 0, Dundee 0 Kilmarnock 0, St Johnstone 0 Hibernian 3, St Mirren 2 Dunfermline Athletic 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Celtic	**9**	**8**	**1**	**0**	**22**	**8**	**25**
2. Hibernian	10	7	2	1	19	5	23
3. Rangers	9	7	1	1	21	12	22
4. Kilmarnock	10	5	2	3	12	10	17
5. Hearts	10	3	4	3	13	11	13
6. Dundee	10	3	4	3	12	10	13
7. Aberdeen	9	2	5	2	11	11	11
8. St Johnstone	9	2	5	2	9	11	11
9. Dunfermline	10	2	3	5	7	15	9
10. St Mirren	10	2	1	7	6	14	7
11. Motherwell	10	1	2	7	5	15	5
12. Dundee Utd	10	0	2	8	6	21	2

LEADING SCORERS
10 - Henrik Larsson (Celtic)
7 - Billy Dodds (Rangers)
6 - Juan Sara (Dundee), Robbie Winters (Aberdeen)

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION

Ayr United 3 Inverness Caly.Th. 3, Clyde 0 Raith Rovers 0, Falkirk 3 Livingston 2, Morton 1 Airdrieonians 2, Ross County 1 Alloa Athletic 0.

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION

Arbroath 2 Queen of the South 0, Berwick Rangers 2 Stirling Albion 2, Partick Thistle 1 Forfar Athletic 1, Queen's Park 2 Stenhousemuir 0, Stranraer 0 Clydebank 2.

SCOTTISH THIRD DIVISION

Albion Rovers 0 Peterhead 0, Brechin City 4 East Stirlingshire 1, Cowdenbeath 2 Montrose 0, East Fife 1 Hamilton Academical 2, Elgin 2 Dumbarton 0.

ITALIAN SERIE A

Atalanta 2 Lazio 2, AC Milan 2 Vicenza 0, Parma 2 Fiorentina 2, Perugia 1 Lecce 1, Reggina 2 Inter Milan 1, AS Roma 2 Bologna 0, Udinese 4 Brescia 2, Bari 1 Verona 1, Napoli 1 Juventus 2.

SPANISH PRIMERA LIGA

Alaves 2 Osasuna 0, Athletic Bilbao 2 Real Mallorca 1, Deportivo Coruna 2 Barcelona 0, Espanyol 1 Real Sociedad 2 (abandoned at halftime) Malaga 1 Numancia 3, Rayo Vallecano 3 Celta Vigo 0, Real Oviedo 2 Real Zaragoza 1, Valencia 5 Las Palmas 1, Valladolid 0 Villarreal 0, Racing Santander 0 Real Madrid 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Deportivo	**4**	**3**	**1**	**0**	**8**	**1**	**10**
2. Valencia	4	3	0	1	13	3	9
3. Celta Vigo	4	3	0	1	7	4	9
4. Rayo Vallecano	4	2	2	0	10	3	8
5. Real Madrid	4	2	2	0	9	5	8
6. Alaves	4	2	1	1	7	3	7
7. Villarreal	4	2	1	1	3	5	7
8. Valladolid	4	1	3	0	4	2	6
9. Barcelona	4	2	0	2	6	7	6
10. Athletic Bilbao	4	2	0	2	6	8	6
11. Numancia	4	2	0	2	4	6	6
12. Real Oviedo	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
13. Malaga	4	1	1	2	6	8	4
14. Osasuna	4	1	1	2	4	7	4
15. Espanyol	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
16. Real Zaragoza	4	0	2	2	4	6	2
17. Real Sociedad	3	0	2	1	4	7	2
18. Racing Sant.	4	0	2	2	3	8	2
19. Las Palmas	4	0	2	2	4	11	2
20. Real Mallorca	4	0	1	3	2	8	1

LEADING SCORERS
5 - Juan Sanchez (Valencia)
3 - Patrick Kluivert (Barcelona), Catanha (Celta Vigo), Guti (Real Madrid), Gaizka Mendieta (Valencia), Vicente (Valencia), Javi Moreno (Alaves)

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

SC Freiburg 0 Werder Bremen 1, VfL Wolfsburg 2 VfB Stuttgart 2, Bayern Munich 0 Hansa Rostock 1, Hamburg SV 2 Schalke 04 0 Hertha Berlin 4 Cologne 2, Kaiserslautern 1 Energie Cottbus 1, VfL Bochum 3 SpVgg Unterhaching 0, Bayer Leverkusen 0 1860 Munich 0, Eintracht Frankfurt 1 Borussia Dortmund 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Bayern Munich	**7**	**5**	**0**	**2**	**16**	**7**	**15**
2. Schalke 04	7	4	2	1	15	5	14
3. Borussia Dort.	7	4	1	2	13	12	13
4. Hertha Berlin	7	4	0	3	18	13	12
5. 1860 Munich	7	3	3	1	11	8	12
6. Eintracht Frank.	7	3	2	2	11	8	11
7. Hamburg SV	7	3	2	2	16	14	11
8. Bayer	7	3	2	2	8	8	11
9. VfL Bochum	7	3	1	3	7	13	10
10. Hansa Rostock	7	3	1	3	4	10	10
11. SC Freiburg	7	2	3	2	10	6	9
12. VfL Wolf.	7	2	2	3	14	14	8
13. Werder B	7	2	2	3	9	9	8
14. VfB Stuttgart	7	2	2	3	9	12	8
15. Kaiserslautern	7	2	2	3	5	8	8
16. Cologne	7	1	2	4	10	13	5
17. SpVgg Unt.	7	1	2	4	7	13	5
18. Energie C.	7	1	1	5	7	17	4

LEADING SCORERS
6 - Paul Agostino (TSV 1860 Munich), Heiko Herrlich (Borussia Dortmund), Carsten Jancker (Bayern Munich), Ebbe Sand (Schalke 04), Emile Mpenza (Schalke 04)
5 - Sergei Barbarez (Hamburg SV)

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

Nantes 0 Lille 0, Olympique Marseille 1 Olymp. Lyon 1, En Avant Guingamp 1 Paris St Germain 1, Monaco 2 Girondins Bordeaux 2, RC Lens 0 Strasbourg 0, St Etienne 0 Stade Rennes 2, Troyes 1 Sedan 1, Toul. 0 AJ Auxerre 1, Bastia 1 Metz 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Bastia	**10**	**6**	**1**	**3**	**15**	**10**	**19**
2. Paris St G.	10	5	3	2	21	14	18
3. RC Lens	10	4	4	2	11	10	16
4. Lille	10	4	3	3	12	8	15
5. Monaco	10	4	3	3	16	14	15
6. Troyes	10	4	3	3	15	13	15
7. Olympique L	10	3	5	2	11	9	14
8= En Avant G.	10	4	2	4	12	12	14
8= Olympique M.	10	4	2	4	12	12	14
10. Metz	10	4	2	4	8	9	14
11. Girondins B.	10	3	4	3	14	12	13
12. AJ Auxerre	10	4	1	5	10	11	13
13. Stade Rennes	9	3	3	3	11	8	12
14. Sedan	9	3	3	3	11	11	12
15. Nantes	10	3	3	4	13	17	12
16. St Etienne	10	2	4	4	16	20	10
17. Strasbourg	10	3	1	6	10	22	10
18. Toulouse	10	1	3	6	8	14	6

LEADING SCORERS
7 - Frederic Nee (Bastia)
6 - Nicolas Anelka, Laurent Robert (both Paris St Germain)

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

Graafschap Doetinchem 2 Feyenoord 3, Vitesse Arnhem 2 Utrecht 1, Groningen 0 PSV Eindhoven 1, Sparta Rotterdam 1 Willem II Tilburg 2, Roda JC Kerkrade 4 AZ Alkmaar 2, RKC Waalwijk 1 Twente Enschede 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Vitesse Arn.	**7**	**5**	**1**	**1**	**18**	**10**	**16**
2. PSV Eind.	6	4	1	1	11	6	13
3. NAC Breda	7	4	1	2	14	6	13
4. Feyenoord	4	4	0	0	10	4	12
5. NEC Nijmegen	7	2	5	0	13	9	11
6. RKC Waalwijk	8	3	2	3	8	8	11
7. Ajax Amster.	6	3	1	2	12	7	10
8. Roda JC K.	5	2	3	0	12	8	9
9. Willem II T.	6	2	3	1	9	8	9
10. Twente E.	6	2	3	2	12	12	9
11. Groningen	7	2	2	4	11	17	8
12. Heerenveen	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
13. Utrecht	6	2	1	3	9	9	7
14. AZ Alkmaar	6	2	0	4	10	15	6
15. Graafschap D.	7	2	0	5	10	15	6
16. Sparta R.	6	1	1	4	11	16	4
17. RBC Roos.	7	1	0	6	9	17	3
18. Fortuna S.	5	0	1	4	2	15	1

BELGIAN FIRST DIVISION

Club Bruges 5 Mechelen 2, Ghent 4 Antwerp 2, Genk 1 Anderlecht 1, Standard Liege 5 Westerlo 3, La Louviere 1 Sint-Truiden 0, Germinal Beerschot 2 Eendracht Aalst 0, Lokeren 1 Beveren 1, Lierse 4 Harelbeke 1, Excelsior Mouscron 3 Charleroi 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Club Bruges	**8**	**8**	**0**	**0**	**32**	**8**	**24**
2. Anderlecht	8	6	2	0	27	10	20
3. Excelsior M	8	5	1	2	21	9	16
4. Standard Liege	8	5	1	2	24	12	16
5. Lierse	8	5	0	3	17	11	15
6. Charleroi	8	5	0	3	17	16	15
7. Westerlo	8	4	2	2	16	14	14
8. Ghent	7	4	1	2	17	15	13*
9. Lokeren	8	3	4	1	12	10	13
10. Germinal B.	8	4	0	4	13	13	12
11. Genk	7	2	3	2	9	9	9
12. Beveren	7	2	2	3	5	10	8*
13. La Louviere	8	1	3	4	5	16	6
14. Harelbeke	8	1	1	6	12	27	4
15. Aalst	8	1	1	6	6	23	4
16. Antwerp	7	1	0	6	6	15	3
17. Sint Truiden	8	0	3	5	6	13	3
18. Mechelen	8	0	2	6	10	24	2

PORTUGUESE PREMIER LEAGUE

Pacos Ferreira 4 Estrela Amadora 1, Alverca 2 Gil Vicente 0, Campomaiorense 1 Uniao Leiria 1, Maritimo 2 Beira Mar 1, Sporting 2 Salgueiros 0, Vitoria Guimaraes 2 Aves 2, Benfica v Braga Belenenses v Boavista Farense v Porto.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Braga	**5**	**4**	**1**	**0**	**8**	**4**	**13**
2. Sporting	6	4	1	1	12	5	13
3. Porto	5	4	0	1	10	3	12
4. Pacos Ferreira	6	4	0	2	14	7	12
5. Salgueiros	6	4	0	2	8	7	12
6. Belenenses	5	3	2	0	8	3	11
7. Boavista	5	3	1	1	10	4	10
8. Maritimo	6	3	1	2	5	4	10
9. Benfica	5	2	1	2	7	6	7
10. Farense	5	2	1	2	5	5	7
11. Vitoria Gui.	6	2	1	3	10	11	7
12. Uniao Leiria	6	1	3	2	6	11	6
13. Alverca	6	1	3	2	5	7	6
14. Aves	6	1	2	3	8	10	5
15. Campom'nse	6	0	4	2	6	12	4
16. Gil Vicente	6	0	2	4	2	9	2
17. Beira Mar	6	0	2	4	8	15	2
18. Estrela A.	6	0	1	5	2	11	1

CROATIAN FIRST DIVISION

Zagreb 3 Dinamo 3, Marsonia 2 Hrv. Dragovoljač 2, Cakovec 1 Cibalia 0, Hajduk 2 Varteks 0, Postponed: Osijek v Sibenik Slaven Belupo v Rijeka

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Dinamo	**9**	**6**	**2**	**1**	**20**	**8**	**20**
2. Osijek	8	5	2	1	20	13	17
3. Hajduk	8	5	2	2	12	6	17
4. Zagreb	9	5	2	2	21	17	17
5. Sibenik	8	4	0	4	9	9	12
6. Hrv.Dragovoljac	9	3	3	3	13	15	12
7. Cakovec	9	3	3	3	10	12	12
8. Varteks	9	2	4	3	14	15	10
9. Slaven Belupo	8	1	4	3	7	8	7
10. Rijeka	8	1	3	4	4	8	6
11. Marsonia	8	1	2	6	9	17	5
12. Cibalia	9	0	5	4	6	17	5

YUGOSLAV FIRST DIVISION

Zemun Belgrade 1 Red Star Belgrade 1, Partizan Belgrade 1 Milicionar Belgrade 0, Radnicki Nis 1 Napredak Krusevac 1, OFK Beograd Belgrade 0 Zeta Golubovci 0, Sutjeska Niksic 1 Cukaricki Belgrade 4, Hajduk Kula 6 Zeleznik Belgrade 0, Obilic Belgrade 3 Radnicki Kragujevac 0, Sartid Smederevo 2 Buducnost Podgorica 0, Vojvodina Novi Sad 1 Rad Belgrade 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Red Star Bel	**7**	**6**	**1**	**0**	**17**	**3**	**19**
2. Partizan Bel.	7	5	0	2	17	7	15
3. Obilic Belgrade	7	5	0	2	9	7	15
4. Hajduk Kula	7	4	1	2	18	6	13
5. Vojvodina Novi	7	3	2	2	9	4	11
6. Cukaricki Bel.	7	3	1	3	12	10	10
7. Zemun Belgrade	7	2	4	1	7	6	10
8. Zeleznik Bel	7	3	1	2	7	9	10
9. Sartid Smederevo	7	3	1	3	8	11	10
10. Zeta Golubovci	7	2	3	2	10	7	9

GREEK FIRST DIVISION

Kalamata 0 Iraklis 0, Paniliakos 0 OFI C 0, Olympiakos 3 Ionikos 3, AEK Ath. 2 Ethnikos 2, Panahaiki 2 Athinaikos 1, Panathinaikos 2 Aris Sal. 2, PAS Io.a 1 Xanthi 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Olympiakos	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**11**	**4**	**7**
2. AEK Athens	3	2	1	0	7	2	7
3. Panathinaikos	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
4. Aris Salonika	3	2	1	0	6	4	7
5. Xanthi	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
6. PAOK Salonika	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
7. Ionikos	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
8. Panahaiki	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
9. Iraklis	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
10. Ethnikos A	3	1	1	1	3	8	4

ROMANIAN FIRST DIVISION

Dinamo Bucharest 2 Petrolul Ploiesti 3, Astra Ploiesti 0 Rapid Bucharest 1, Universitatea Craiova 1 Steaua Bucharest 0, Rocar Bucharest 2 FCM Bacau 0, Gloria Bistrita 1 Gaz Metan Medias 0, Foresta Falticeni 1 Otelul Galati 1, Ceahlaul Piatra Neamt 2 National Bucharest 1, Brasov 0 Arges Pitesti 0.

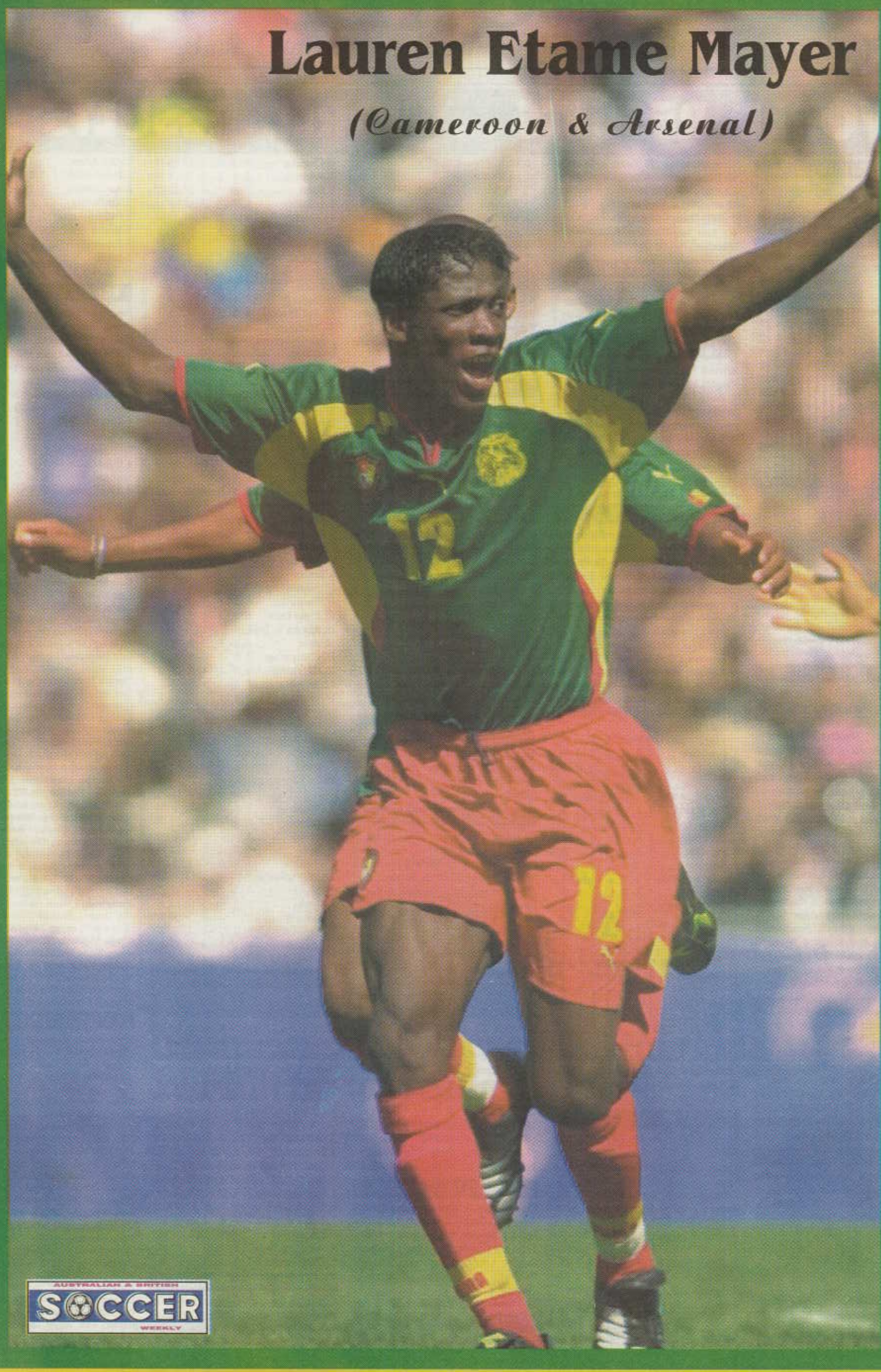
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Steaua Buch	**8**	**5**	**2**	**1**	**18**	**12**	**17**
2. Universitatea C	8	5	2	1	11	5	17
3. Petrolul Ploiesti	8	5	1	2	13	9	16
4. Otelul Galati	8	4	2	2	13	10	14
5. Brasov	8	4	2	2	4	2	14
6. Rocar Bucharest	8	4	1	3	16	13	13
7. Arges Pitesti	8	4	1	3	8	11	13
8. Rapid Bucharest	8	3	2	3	8	7	11
9. FCM Bacau	8	3	2	3	13	13	11

UEFA CUP

Wisla Krakow (Poland) 4 Real Zaragoza (Spain) 1 agg 5-5 aet. Wisla win 4-3 on penalties, Slovan Liberec (Czech Rep) 2 Norrkoping (Sweden) 1 Slovan win 4-3 on agg, Dynamo Mosćow (Russia) 2 Lillestrom (Norway) 1 Lillestrom win 4-3 on agg , MTK Budapest (Hungary) 0 CSZKA Sofia (Bulgaria) , 1-2. agg 2-2. MTK win on away goals, Torpedo Moscow (Russia) 0 Lausanne Sports (Switzerland) 2 Lausanne win 5-2 on agg , Neftochimik Bourgas (Bulgaria) 0 Lokomotiv Moscow (Russia) 0 Lokomotiv win 4-2 on agg e, Dinamo Zagreb (Croatia) 1 Slovan Bratislava (Slovakia) 1 Dinamo win 4-1 on aggregate, AS Roma 7 (Italy) Nova Gorica (Slovenia) 0 Roma win 11-1 on agg , Gaziantepspor (Turkey) 3 Alaves (Spain) 4 Alaves win 4-3 on agg , Red Star Belgrade (Yugoslavia) 3 Leicester City (England) 1 Red Star win 4-2 on agg , Nantes (France) 5 Kryvbas Kryviy Rih (Ukraine) 0 Nantes win 6-0 on agg, Boavista (Portugal) 2 Vorskla Poltava (Ukraine) 1 Boavista win 4-2 on agg , AB Copenhagen (Denmark) 0 Slavia Prague (Czech Rep) 2 Slavia Prague win 5-0 on agg, Beitar Jerusalem (Israel) 3 PAOK Salonika (Greece) 3PAOK Salonika win 7-4 on agg, Maccabi Haifa (Israel) 2 Vitesse Arnhem (Netherlands) 1 Vitesse Arnhem win 4-2 on agg., HJK Helsinki (Finland) 2 Celtic (Scotland) 1, Celtic win 3-2 on agg, Amica Wronki (Poland) 2 Alanyia Vladikavkaz (Russia) 0 Amica win 5-0 on agg, Werder Bremen (Germany) 6 Antalyaspor (Turkey) 0 Agg result 6-2, Osijek (Croatia) 0 Brondby (Denmark) 0 Osijek win 2-1 on aggregate, Feyenoord (Netherlands) 3 Dunaferr (Hungary) 1 Feyenoord win 4-1 on agg.

UEFA CUP SECOND ROUND DRAW

Hertha Berlin (Germany) v Amica Wronki (Poland), Werder Bremen (Germany) v Genk (Belgium), Vitesse Arnhem (Netherlands) v Inter Milan (Italy), Red Star Belgrade (Yugoslavia) v Celta Vigo (Spain), Osijek (Croatia) v Rapid Vienna (Austria), OFI Crete (Greece) v Slavia Prague (Czech Republic), AEK Athens (Greece) v Herfoelge (Denmark), Basle (Switzerland) v Feyenoord (Netherlands) Halmstad (Sweden) v TSV 1860 Munich (Germany), Parma (Italy) v Dinamo Zagreb (Croatia), Espanyol (Spain) v Graz AK (Austria), Liverpool (England) v Slovan Liberec (Czech Republic), Lausanne Sports (Switzerland) v Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands), Porto (Portugal) v Wisla Krakow (Poland), Tirol Innsbruck (Austria) v VfB Stuttgart (Germany), Rayo Vallecano (Spain) v Viborg (Denmark). Nantes (France) v MTK B[illegible]), Udinese (Italy) v PAOK Salonik[illegible]ce), AS Roma (Italy) v Boavista (Portugal), Girondins Bordeaux (France) v Celtic (Scotland), Lokomotiv Moscow (Russia) v Inter Bratislava (Slovakia), Kaiserslautern (Germany) v Iraklis (Greece) Club Bruges (Belgium) v St Gallen (Switzerland), Lillestrom (Norway) v Alaves (Spain). Matches to be played over two legs on October 26 and November 9.

Lauren Etame Mayer

(Cameroon & Arsenal)